Hafa Adai!

Propst: House should pressure CCC to revoke IPI's casino license. **PAGE 2**

Bill aims to set up permanent one-stop business license center. **PAGE 3**

$1

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios along with a delegation from the Commonwealth returned from Taiwan this past week as part of the CNMI's efforts to invite foreign investment, expand business opportunities, advance cooperative agreements, and diversify the CNMI's tourism market. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Republic of China (Taiwan) funded the delegation's travel, accommodations, and transportation.

'Taiwan visit promoted economic ties and strengthened relations'

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios recently returned from Taiwan this past week as part of the administration's and the CNMI's efforts to invite foreign investment, expand business opportunities, advance cooperative agreements, and diversify the CNMI's tourism market.

The governor, along with a small delegation composed of House of Representatives and Senate members, had been invited by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam and the Ministry of

See TAIWAN on Page 4

House approves soda container tax hike, marriage license fee increases

Flores

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed during a session on Monday two revenue-generating bills filed by Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) that essentially raises the tax on soda beverages and the marriage license fees.

The first legislation, House Bill 23-78, House Substitute 1, increases the tax imposed on soda and alcoholic beverage containers. The second, House Bill 23-79, increases marriage

See HOUSE on Page 4

No NMI judge for new suit against Torres

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Naraja

All sitting Superior Court judges have recused themselves from presiding over the new contempt suit filed against former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

This comes soon after Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja issued yesterday his order of self-recusal, on the heels of four Superior

See JUDGE on Page 4

List of BOOST checks sought

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives committee that is investigating the previous administration's controversial grant program has asked Bank of Saipan to provide a list of all checks printed related to the program.

Yumul

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about the committee's probe on the Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability program, Rep.

See BOOST on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Micronesia Mall announced the launch of the Shop, Dine & Win promotion on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 at 1pm at its Center Court.

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NATION

Several states will participate in Tuesday's off-year general election that will determine the next governor in two states and provide insight into how abortion rights are shaping American politics.

PAGE 12

ASIA

Survivors of an earthquake in Nepal's northwest mountains searched through the debris of their collapsed homes for any salvageable belongings as aid trickled into the remote area.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Propst: House should pressure CCC to revoke IPI's casino license

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting as one body, the House of Representatives should figure out when to pressure the Commonwealth Casino Commission to pull the trigger and just revoke the casino license of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, according to Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) Monday.

"I'm ready to push and to work hard in revoking that license, unless there is some money that falls from the sky from IPI. But that's about as likely as pigs flying," said Propst during a session.

He said they're hearing promises that IPI will be paying $5 million a year to the CNMI government and $1 million a year to the CCC, but "with all the promises that they have violated, and everything that they have reneged on, how can we know that they're sincere?"

Howyo Chi, the newly appointed manager/director for IPI, disclosed at a recent CCC board meeting, that IPI is proposing to pay $5 million a year for four years to the CNMI government for the casino license fee and $1 million per year for four years to the CCC for regulatory fee, in exchange for getting back its suspended casino license.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), extreme left, talks about the need for the House as one body to figure out when to pressure the Commonwealth Casino Commission to revoke Imperial Pacific International's (CNMI) casino license as House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), middle, and vice speaker Rep. Joel Camacho (Ind-Saipan) listen during a session last Monday.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel in Garapan.

The CCC board ordered the indefinite suspension of IPI's casino license last April 2021 for violating the commission's orders in five enforcement actions.

Propst, who is the House floor leader, said he will be talking with House Gaming Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) about meeting with the CCC.

"I think that's something that at this point we need to do. But all of us, every single one of us in this room right now, should be a part of this meeting. It shouldn't only be Gaming [Committee members]," he said.

Propst said every one of them has a vested interest in this casino, which he said is just an "eyesore" in the tourist district. He said no matter how much improvement they do in Garapan, especially for Precinct 3, "that eyesore is going to stand there."

Propst said that independent engineers and architects should assess the IPI casino/resort building to see if it's even worth continuing construction work.

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Bill aims to set up permanent one-stop business license center

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Thomas John DLC. Manglona (R-Saipan) has introduced a bill that will establish a permanent One Stop Shop Business License and Permitting Center operated by the Department of Commerce.

The legislation, House Bill 23-81, seeks to incorporate a seven-working day maximum waiting period for all new business license and permitting applications.

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) referred the bill to the Committee on Commerce and Tourism during Monday's session.

Under the legislation, the One Stop Shop Business License and Permitting Center shall be open to the public from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except CNMI legal holidays, and accommodations shall be made to receive evening and weekend applications.

The center shall coordinate and execute a memorandum of agreement with each CNMI government regulatory agency involved in the licensing and permitting process to designate personnel to carry out the mandates of the One Stop Licensing and Permitting Center.

The MOU shall clearly indicate that the Commerce secretary shall have full administrative control of such detail personnel.

Failure to adjudicate business licensing and permitting applications within seven working days shall deem

Manglona

such application as approved for licensing or permitting for a period of 60 days.

During this default approval timeframe, the regulatory agencies involved in the approval process of such application shall make the necessary recommendations to the Commerce secretary for its final disposition.

Manglona stated in the legislation that there have been variations in the success of the One Stop Center over the years due to various logistical difficulties among and between agencies.

In order to solve the challenges and coordinate business license and permitting across the government, Manglona said there is a need to establish via a statute the framework to stand a functional and true "one stop" licensing and permitting center.

To make the center a permanent part of the government, he said, the bill intends to centralize the functions of each regulatory government entity that is involved in the licensing and permitting of any business-related establishment.

Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) said they should look at the initial language of the law that transferred the licensing and permitting from Commerce to the Department of Finance, supposedly to improve efficiency. Castro said it's been many years already and the process is still cumbersome and lacks data sharing across regulatory agencies.

He said maybe they can revisit that and just put the business license and permitting with Commerce if it's not working the way it was designed to, instead of an MOU between Commerce and these other agencies.

But at the same time, he said, if they do transfer it to Commerce, more funding needs to be appropriated.

Castro noted that there was a previous legislation that required Commerce to go fully online, but that has not happened yet. Rather, it's only semi-online as it's still with PDF forms, which is not the intent of the initial law that was passed by the previous legislature.

"They're supposed to be digital, whereas you can apply and then submit everything and not have to upload or email a PDF form," Castro said.

For the most part, he said, it's still a paper application and not a 100% digital process.

He, however, stated that H.B. 23-81 is a good legislation.

In introducing this bill, Manglona said, that doesn't mean he feels "it's set in stone," as it's open to everybody and all the agencies will be involved in submitting their input.

"I know it's not [going to] happen overnight. But I know it's time that we move forward, especially if we want to entice new businesses and grow this economy," Manglona said.

He said they need to start from the first point of contact as he believes first impression makes a great impact. Manglona underscored the need to create more partnership among the government and businesses for both to succeed and help each other out and create an ecosystem that works for both sides.

Red Cross gears up for 'Back to the '80s Party'

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

To help raise funds and support the efforts of the American Red Cross in the CNMI, the NMI Chapter is holding a Back to the '80s Party this Nov. 18 at the Kensington Hotel Saipan in San Roque.

Hirsh

The fundraiser takes place as the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter celebrates its 45th anniversary, with nearly five decades of hundreds of volunteers working tirelessly to support disaster preparedness training, responding to major typhoons, teaching lifesaving health and safety training, as well as supporting veterans and military families through emergency communications.

"I'm proud to support the legacy of so many local volunteers who have given so much personal time to support families in need," said John Hirsh, director of the NMI Chapter. "Our Red Cross services are made possible through the dedication and big hearts of our volunteers. "

The 1980's fundraising dinner will open at 5pm and will include a buffet dinner, as well as live entertainment from groups such as the Groove Theory, DJ Davey G, and MC Santi "Big Boy" Sablan. There will also be dance and costume contests as well as a silent auction and door prizes. Participants are encouraged to come wearing an outfit from the '80s, which they can show off with pride.

Tickets are $150 per person and are currently available on the dinner event website, www.redcross.org/nmigala

For more information about the Red Cross, call 234-3459 or e-mail nmichapter@redcross.org.

The Red Cross is a global organization that works towards improving lives here in the CNMI, around the region and throughout the world.

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Address: P.O. Box 505296
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 286-5299
Pro Se

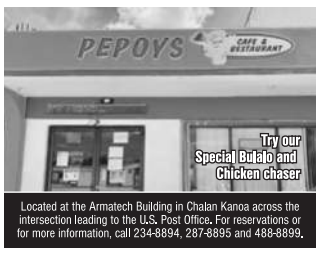
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Adoption of:	] FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION] NO. 23-0429]
J.C. Minor Child(ren)	] **NOTICE OF HEARING**]
By:. Genoven Tyquiengco and Jose Tyquiengco Petitioner(s)	]]]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 20, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 20th day of October, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/HIT-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOV. 27TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"INSTALLATION OF SECURITY DOOR SYSTEM"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
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Tel: (670) 234-6245 / 6293 / 7146 | Fax: (670) 235-7147

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION:	**COMPTROLLER**
TERM:	Exempt, two-year contract
LOCATION:	SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
ANNUAL SALARY:	Minimum $70,000.00
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT:	HR 2023-03
OPENING DATE:	October 16, 2023
CLOSING DATE:	**UNTIL FILLED** We advise applying as soon as possible as we may close the vacancy early.

Information for this vacancy announcement can be found on our website at https://developcnmi.com/jva.html and by scanning the QR code below.

For inquiries on the vacancy announcement, please contact Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director at (670) 234-6245 ext. 311 or by email at m.sablan@developcnmi.com.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400002

SUBMISSION DATE: November 27, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Project Management Services for Route 302 (Naftan Road) Improvement."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after October 25, 2023 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on November 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on November 17, 2023 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400007

SUBMISSION DATE: December 07, 2023 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply and Delivery of a Trailer 60-80 Ton Lowboy with Detachable Neck Hydraulic Rear Ramps Center Boom Well."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **November 08, 2023** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 24, 2023,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 29, 2023** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Judge denies Sanchez's request to modify bail

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kelvin C. Sanchez, middle, covers his face as he is escorted to Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho's courtroom for his bail hearing last Monday.

The Superior Court has denied the bail modification request made by a man who was recently arrested on multiple charges, including the unlawful transportation of firearms.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho, who heard Kelvin C. Sanchez's bail modification request in a hearing last Monday, denied the request and kept the previously imposed bail amount at $50,000 cash.

Camacho said his concern is not so much the bail amount, but rather the lack of a third-party custodian.

"Until such time a third-party custodian is presented, I must deny the request for bail modification," said Camacho.

At the hearing, assistant public defender Emily Thomsen, who represents Sanchez, 35, requested that the court modify her client's bail and allow him to post just 10% of the amount for his release.

Chester Hinds, who is the chief criminal prosecutor of the Office of the Attorney General, opposed and asked the court to maintain the bail at $50,000.

Sanchez was previously a wanted man until his arrest over the weekend.

Sanchez is facing charges of unlawful transportation of firearms, possession of ammunition, violation of a firearms owner's identification card requirement, removal of firearms serial number, and possession of a controlled substance.

After the hearing, Sanchez was remanded back to Department of Corrections' custody and was ordered to return to court on Nov. 13 for a preliminary hearing while his arraignment is set for Nov. 20.

According to court documents, Department of Public Safety responded to a call at around 11:16pm on Oct. 24. A woman claimed she was being followed by a white Toyota Corolla near Pak Pak beach in San Antonio. The car later sped north on Beach Road.

Officers pursued the car, which they later learned was being operated by Sanchez, to the San Jose church.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kelvin C. Sanchez keeps his head low as he is escorted to his bail hearing last Monday.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From page 1

license application fees.

The House Ways and Means Committee, which made some changes to House Bill 23-78, recommended the passage of the two measures.

With 16 House members voting "yes" and three "no," House Bill 23-78, HS1 now goes to the Senate for action. Those who voted "no" were Reps. Roy Christopher Aldan Ada (R-Saipan), Manny Gregory Tenorio Castro (Ind-Saipan), and Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan). Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the Ways and Means Committee, was present at the session, but was not in the chamber when voting took place.

With 19 House members voting "yes," House Bill 23-79 now goes to the Senate for action.

House Bill 23-78, HS1 increases the tax imposed on all soda drink containers from the current 5 cents per container to 15 cents. It also increases the tax on each container of any alcoholic beverage from the current 5 cents to 15 cents.

The committee agreed to insert a new subsection 3 to the Commonwealth Code to reflect that all funds collected shall be deposited into accounts separate from the general fund, and that 10% of such funds shall go to the CNMI Division of Customs Biosecurity for operations.

The director of the CNMI Division of Customs Biosecurity shall be the expenditure authority of these funds.

The committee recognized that the CNMI Division of Customs Biosecurity will have additional duties and responsibilities with respect to this bill and other legislations proposing to increase tax rates, therefore a certain percentage of the taxes imposed will be deposited into a separate account specifically for the division's operation.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BOOST

From page 1

Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding, disclosed yesterday that among the documents that they requested from BOS through a "Letter 1309" is the register list of all checks printed that are related to the grant program.

In Commonwealth Code, a Letter 1309 refers to the acquisition of information by other lawful means.

Yumul said the BOS, which was the administrator of the BOOST Program, has stated it intends to submit the register list and other documents tomorrow, Thursday.

Yesterday, Tuesday, was supposedly the deadline for BOS to submit the list but, according to Yumul, the bank asked for an extension as their lawyer, Matthew Gregory, was on leave.

He said they are only waiting for the BOS documents as other agencies had already submitted their responses.

Using $17 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, the program was a project of the previous Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce. It aimed to provide financial assistance to CNMI businesses and non-profit organizations, but became controversial due to allegations it was intended to buy votes and make the friends of former governor Ralph DLG Torres rich.

TAIWAN

From page 1

Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan), which also funded the airfare, accommodations, and travel.

During the visit, Palacios engaged in multiple discussions with high-ranking government officials and prominent business leaders. These discussions focused on a wide range of topics, including investment, technology, healthcare, tourism, and environmental sustainability.

The CNMI delegation included House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan); Senate vice president Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota); Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation; Rep. Angelo Camacho (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee; and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

The governor's travel to Taiwan was approved by the U.S. State Department.

Additionally, the governor's and the CNMI's position regarding Taiwan is consistent with and in support of the United States' position, summarized here: https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-taiwan/

Among the agencies and organizations the CNMI delegation met with:

- American Institute in Taiwan, Taipei Office
- Department of North American Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Civil Aeronautics Administration, Ministry of Transportation and Communication
- China Airlines, one of two major Taiwan Airlines
- Taipower Company
- Taiwan Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Services, Inc
- Taiwan Adventist Hospital
- Overseas Engineering & Construction Company
- Hun Hong Company
- Council of Indigenous Peoples
- American State Offices Association

"Our meetings with government agencies and private sector companies opened doors for numerous opportunities for collaboration in various sectors," said Palacios. "It's also worth noting that our discussions were not limited to economic and investment conversations, but were also extended to cultural, educational, and environmental aspects."

The CNMI delegation also participated in the Taipei International Travel Fair, which featured over 1,300 participant booths. ***(Office of the Governor)***

JUDGE

From page 1

Court associate judges earlier submitting their orders of recusals.

In his order, Naraja cited 1 CMC 3308 (a) as the grounds for his recusal. This provision essentially states that "a justice or judge of the Commonwealth shall disqualify himself or herself in any proceeding in which his or her impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

Prior to Naraja's recusal, Superior Court associate judges Kenneth Govendo, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Wesley Bogdan, and Joseph N. Camacho recused themselves from hearing the new suit, which was filed against Torres by assistant attorney general James Kingman.

Both Naraja and Govendo referred to 1 CMC 3308 (a) as reasons for their recusals while the other three judges reasoned that conflict of interests exists, warranting recusal from the case.

No judge has been assigned yet to the contempt suit against Torres. In a case like this, with no available CNMI judge to handle the case, the CNMI Supreme Court usually appoints a judge from the Guam Judiciary.

Kingman filed the new suit last week, charging Torres with contempt over his failure to comply with a legislative subpoena last December 2021.

Aside from contempt, Kingman is also charging Torres with misconduct in public office for failing to appear in compliance with the legislative subpoena.

According to Kingman, failure to appear in compliance with a subpoena is in violation of the Commonwealth Code; if found guilty, Torres could be fined by not more than $1,000 or imprisoned by not more than one year, or both.

This is not the first time the Office of the Attorney General filed a contempt suit against Torres, but the initial charge was dismissed in August 2022. Judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino's order granted, in part, and denied, in part, Torres' motion for the withdrawal or disqualification of the OAG as a prosecutor. It was in this order that the judge dismissed the contempt charge against Torres.

Specifically, Tolentino found that chief solicitor J. Robert Glass, the head prosecutor in the criminal case against Torres, may have been exposed to privileged and confidential information that prevents Glass from prosecuting Torres for contempt, therefore the charge was dismissed.

As for the motion to disqualify Glass from prosecuting Torres for the other 13 charges stated in the complaint, Tolentino found no conflict and denied the former governor's motion.

"…there is no conflict preventing…Glass from charging and prosecuting defendant for Counts I-XIII…," Tolentino said.

According to the order, the defense previously argued that Glass knew Torres, through his counsels, were making Open Government Act requests, a procedure being utilized in the defendant's separate case.

Torres further argued that Glass could have only known about his other Open Government Act requests if Glass had information from the representation of Torres in the separate case and therefore the screen—a procedure done by Attorney General Edward Manibusan to ensure Glass was not exposed to privileged and confidential information on Torres' other civil cases—was ineffective.

Tolentino found that evidence previously presented in court indicated it was likely Glass was exposed to privileged information regarding non-appearance to a legislative subpoena as charged in Count 14—Contempt.

CUC power interruption schedule for November

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a slew of power service interruptions during the month of November 2023, as it continues its ongoing system maintenance. See additional information below:

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023

Momentary power service interruption time: 6am-6:30am and 9:30am-10am

Area(s) affected: Susupe (from Sun Palace area south to Arizona Building)

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: A-6

Traffic light(s) affected: Marianas High School and Joeten Susupe

Power service interruption time: 6am-10am

Area(s) affected: Susupe (partial)

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: A-6

Traffic light(s) affected: Joeten Susupe

Purpose: For the CUC linemen to replace one 45-foot wooden primary power pole to concrete and decommission one 45-foot concrete pole under the DPW Route 33 project.

Power service interruption time: 6am-1pm

Area(s) affected: Susupe (from Arizona Building south to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Traffic Light)

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Traffic light(s) affected: Susupe (near Mr. Carmel Cathedral)

Purpose: For the CUC linemen to relocate three 45-foot concrete poles under the DPW Route 33 project.

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023

Power service interruption time: 9am-1pm

Area(s) affected: Chalan Laulau (Nguus Dr. and McDonald's)

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Traffic light(s) affected: None

Purpose: For the CUC linemen to replace one wooden primary power pole with a 3-phase transformer bank to concrete.

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023

Momentary power service interruption time: 8:30am-9am and 3pm-3:30pm

Area(s) affected: Smiling Cove Marina (Marine Enforcement Facility), Industrial Dr. (Shell Marianas, Winners Gas, Mobil Oil Marianas, Division of Customs Service, Saipan Shipping Company, Inc., Saipan Stevedore, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and portions of the U.S. Army Reserve), and Lower Base (Sea Plane Ramp Pl.)

Wastewater facility affected: S-1 and S-3

Traffic light(s) affected: None

Power service interruption time: 8:30am-3:30pm

Area(s) affected: Industrial Dr. (portions of the U.S. Army Reserve)

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Traffic light(s) affected: None

Purpose: For the CUC linemen to replace five 45-foot wooden primary poles to concrete.

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023

Momentary power service interruption time: 8:30am-9am and 2pm-2:30pm

Area(s) affected: Chalan Tun Kiyoshi Rd and Pontan Dr.

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Traffic light(s) affected: None

Power service interruption time: 8:30am-2:30pm

Area(s) affected: Portions of Chalan Tun Kiyoshi Rd and Pontan Dr.

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Traffic light(s) affected: None

Purpose: For the CUC linemen to replace four existing 55-foot concrete poles to 45-foot concrete poles.

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023

Power service interruption time: 6am-2pm

Area(s) affected: El Toro, Dandan; Kannat Tabla; Baptist School; Airport Road, San Vicente; Lower & Upper Dandan; Dandan Middle School; Northern Marianas College; Isley Field; Obyan; Commonwealth Ports Authority/Airport; As Lito; Chalan Msgr. Martinez Rd; Saipan International School; Tottotville; Chalan Joaquin Doi Rd; St. Jude Church; and portions of Chalan Kanoa.

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Traffic light(s) affected: As Terlaje, Dandan (near Shell), San Vicente (near Iglecia ni Cristo), and As Lito/As Perdido Intersection.

Purpose: For the CUC linemen to replace one 45-foot wooden primary power pole to concrete, and to replace two 45-foot wooden power poles to 55-foot concrete poles.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023

Power service interruption time: 9am-1pm

Area(s) affected: Capitol Hill (Egigi Dr.)

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Traffic light(s) affected: None

Purpose: For the CUC linemen to replace four 45-foot wooden primary power poles to concrete.

Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023

Momentary power service interruption time: 8:30am-9am and 2pm-2:30pm

Area(s) affected: Smiling Cove Marina (Marine Enforcement Facility), Industrial Dr. (Shell Marianas, Winners Gas, Mobil Oil Marianas, Division of Customs Service, Saipan Shipping Company, Inc., Saipan Stevedore, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and portions of the U.S. Army Reserve), and Lower Base (Sea Plane Ramp Pl.).

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: S-1 and S-3

Traffic light(s) affected: None

Power service interruption rime: 8:30am-2:30pm

Area(s) Affected: Industrial Dr. (Shell Marianas, Winners Gas, and portions of the U.S. Army Reserve)

Water well(s) affected: None

Wastewater facility affected: None

Traffic light(s) affected: None

Purpose: For the CUC linemen to replace four 45-foot wooden primary power poles to concrete.

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023

Power service interruption time: 6am-2pm

Area(s) affected: Smiling Cove Marina (Marina Enforcement Facility), Industrial Dr. (Shell Marianas, Winners Gas, Mobil Oil Marianas, Division of Customs Service, Saipan Shipping Company, Inc., Saipan Stevedore, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and portions of the U.S. Army Reserve), Lower Base (Sea Plane Ramp Pl.), Puerto Rico, and Upper & Lower Navy Hill.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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BPD releases second volume of BEAD initial proposal

In a step toward enhancing digital connectivity and encouraging community involvement, the Broadband Policy & Development Office, established through the CNMI Office of the Governor, has unveiled the second volume of its CNMI Broadband, Equity, Accessibility, and Development Initial Proposal.

As a part of the BEAD Program, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration enforces public disclosure and comment requirements, ensuring that residents of the CNMI can express their opinions and feedback.

The unveiling of CNMI BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2 is accompanied by an open call for public feedback, with a 30-day comment period extending until Dec. 3, 2023, at 4:30pm ChST. This initiative also aligns with the BPD's commitment to transparency and accessibility by making all meetings and information available on the website.

» Now available for public viewing, commenting

The recently published CNMI BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2 primarily addresses various requirements outlined in Volume 1 and includes an emphasis on the Middle-Class Affordability Plan. This plan details strategies for ensuring that high-quality broadband services are accessible to middle-class families at affordable rates. Several factors, including BEAD Proposal Scoring Criteria, a Low-Cost Service Option, and Shift Drop Costs, are outlined in the plan to enhance the affordability of internet services for middle-class households.

The BPD actively encourages input and feedback from everyone in the public. The public can view the CNMI BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2 and submit comments through the BPD's Official Public Comment form on their website, bpd.cnmi.gov. The public can also directly email their comment to the cnmi.bpd@gmail.com. The BPD also conducts a weekly virtual meeting every Friday at 3pm, ensuring all stakeholders are updated with the BPD's updates and developments. The meeting link can be accessed on the BPD's website. The public is highly encouraged to join if interested. ***(BPD)***

MARK RABAGO

CNMI Broadband Policy and Development Office digital equity program outreach specialist De Faustina J. Camacho, right, and Special Projects coordinator for the Office of the Governor Dencio Manglona take questions from Saipan Chamber of Commerce members during the Chamber's monthly general membership meeting last Nov. 1 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

MARK RABAGO

CNMI Broadband Policy and Development Office digital equity program outreach specialist De Faustina J. Camacho makes her presentation during the monthly general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Nov. 1 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

OIA grants program now open to US insular areas

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced yesterday that applications for fiscal year 2024 funding under the Technical Assistance Programs can now be submitted to www.Grants.Gov.

The announcements for funding for Technical Assistance, Maintenance Assistance, Coral Reef and Natural Resources (including Invasive Species projects), and Brown Tree Snake programs are open with a deadline of March 15, 2024.

"We try to support as many well-deserving projects as possible and encourage all to apply early for Fiscal Year 2024 funding," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "Applications that address climate change, energy, and natural resources are still being given priority consideration."

» Climate change, energy, natural resources remain top priorities

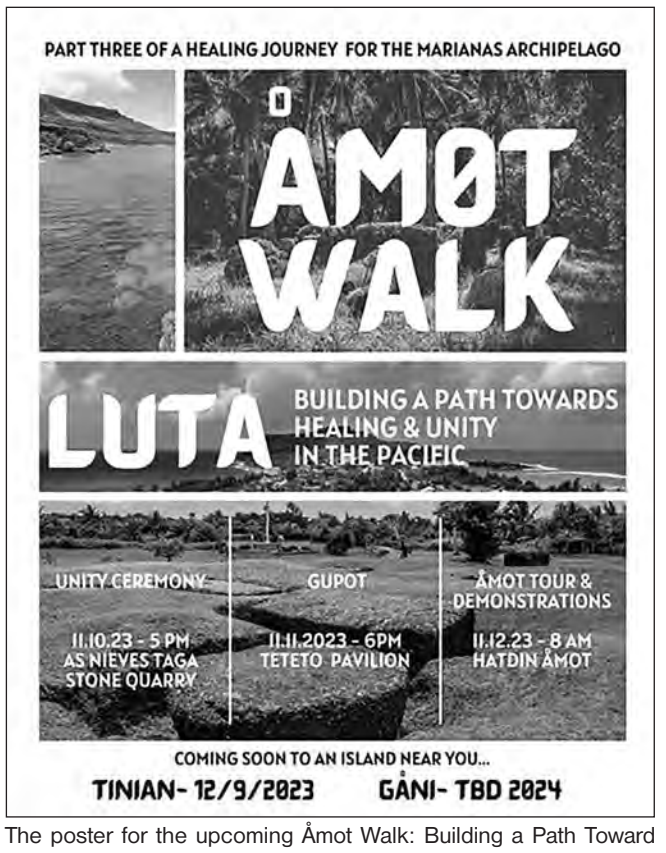
TAP, MAP, and CRNR funding is made available for short-term projects intended to meet the needs of the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the freely associated states: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Cantor

Applications for TAP, MAP, and CRNR will be considered from insular area government entities, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations whose grant proposals directly benefit the four U.S. territories or the three FAS. More information about financial grant assistance may be found on the OIA website.

For more information and to apply, visit www.grants.gov and use CFDA# 15.875. While the deadline is March 15, 2024, it is highly recommended that applications be submitted as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed once OIA receives full-year appropriations. Applications related to public safety and emergencies may be reviewed early, prior to the deadline. All funding decisions will be finalized by Sept. 30, 2024. ***(DOI)***

Åmot Walk set to be held on Rota



The poster for the upcoming Åmot Walk: Building a Path Toward Peace and Unity in the Pacific.

The Micronesia Climate Change Alliance and Our Common Wealth 670will be hosting the third Åmot Walk: Building a Path Toward Peace and Unity in the Pacific on Nov. 10-12, 2023, which will take place this time on Rota.

Cami D. Egurrola, who is the director of Communications for MCCA, said yesterday that the Åmot Walk is actually taking place all over the Marianas, and the Rota stage of the event is "the pathway to the third island in this journey."

On Rota, there will first be a Unity Ceremony on Nov. 10 at 5pm at the As Nieves Stone Quarry. "Gupot" will take place the next day, Nov. 11, 2023, at 6pm, at the Teteto Pavilion. The Åmut Tour and Demonstrations will then happen on Nov. 12, 2023, starting at 8am, at Hatdin Åmot.

The Åmot Walk will also be taking place on Tinian on Dec. 9, 2023, and in Guam next year, with a date to be announced later. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Subramoniam to serve as keynote speaker for PRI Conference

The Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies is pleased to announce Sunita Subramoniam as the keynote speaker for the 21st Pacific Region Investment Conference, which will take place on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2023, at the New World Makati City Hotel in Manila, Philippines.

Subramoniam

Subramoniam is the APAC head of Sustainable Product Strategy for iShares and Index Investments at BlackRock, a global provider of investment, advisory, and risk management services. A significant figure in sustainable investing and indexing, Sunita has extensive experience in the development and commercialization of sustainable / ESG ETFs. Prior to joining BlackRock, she served as a senior portfolio manager at The Capital Company, where she developed and implemented ETF-based portfolio solutions for high net worth clients.

As the keynote speaker for this year's Pacific Region Investment Conference, her keynote session will be centered on "Sustainable Investing for Asset Owners: From Commitments to Implementation." In this rapidly changing landscape, this discussion underlines the significance of addressing global sustainability challenges. It focuses on the critical journey asset owners around the world and in the Asia-Pacific region are taking to align their portfolios with sustainable investments, such as the shift to a low-carbon economy and its implications for investment portfolios, as well as how it reshapes investment strategies and market dynamics. It delves into the transition from making commitments to taking concrete actions, with a focus on generating returns, managing risk, and achieving net-zero emissions.

Please visit the APAFS website to learn more: https://www.apafs.org/. ***(PR)***

Public hearing for Saipan solid waste management plan on Nov. 21

The CNMI Office of Planning and Development on behalf of the Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Task Force invites you to a public hearing on Nov. 21, 2023 from 6pm to 7pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center to share your thoughts, voice your concerns, and learn more about the CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.

To view the latest draft of the CISWMP, give your thoughts on the plan, and more, please visit https://opd.gov.mp/ciswmp.html.

The CNMI CISWMP charts a sustainable path forward for the CNMI's solid waste, spanning the development, operations, and maintenance of compliant landfilling, recycling, and composting facilities for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands. It includes supporting activities such as education and outreach, conservation, and more.

"Together, we can preserve our Commonwealth's beauty and precious resources for future generations through effective, sustainable solid waste management. Get involved and be part of the CISWMP development process!" OPD said in a statement.

If you have any questions about this upcoming outreach event or the CISWMP or wish to be added to a mailing list to receive solid waste management planning updates, please call OPD at (670) 233-2673 or send an email to joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp.

This public hearing will be a hybrid event that will be facilitated in-person and online. If you wish to attend virtually, please send an email to joshua.santos@opd.gov.mp prior to the public hearing date to receive a meeting link. ***(OPD)***

Learning about potential for converting seawater into clean energy

By BETH MUNDY
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

PNNL

John Limtiaco, an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Guam, center, at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington, with UOG engineering students Merry Remetira, right, and Anna Mallari.

When mechanical engineer Fleur de Peralta visited her native Guam in 2021, a question began to form in her mind. How could she bring the engineering and energy expertise of her employer, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to her home island?

"What I heard from people in Guam was the importance of energy independence from renewable sources," said de Peralta. Guam, a U.S. territory located in a string of Western Pacific islands known as Micronesia, currently meets its energy needs in the form of imported fossil fuels and intermittent renewable energy.

Its goal is to generate 100 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2045.

The answer to her question came in the form of a new funding opportunity from the Department of Energy's Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce (RENEW) program. RENEW was created specifically to provide research partnerships between the national laboratories and educational institutions that serve populations historically underrepresented in science, such as Pacific Islanders.

De Peralta's vision led to a successful proposal to investigate the science necessary to turn seawater into hydrogen using renewable electricity. The abundant seawater surrounding Guam provides an enticing energy source: hydrogen.

Through a process called electrolysis, energy from electricity splits water into hydrogen and oxygen. This generates a fuel that can also be stored and used when renewable electricity is not available. "Being able to produce hydrogen from seawater would be a game changer for Guam," said John Limtiaco, an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Guam (UOG) and the project lead.

"UOG is a hub for students throughout Micronesia. We want to bring in students from outlying islands and get them excited about scientific research."

Limtiaco is partnering with researchers from PNNL, including Juan Lopez-Ruiz and Mal Soon Lee. Lopez-Ruiz has deep experience in electrochemistry. Lee creates computational models of chemical reactions, including electrochemical processes.

The RENEW funding enabled a small group of two UOG undergraduate civil engineering students and Limtiaco, their mentor, to spend the summer of 2023 at PNNL. During their stay in Richland, they are investigating the complexities of seawater electrolysis. Since seawater is more than just water—it includes salt, metals, and carbon-based molecules—the researchers must consider how each different component reacts with electricity.

The team is focusing on how the carbon-containing molecules naturally found in seawater could deter the formation of potentially toxic chlorine gas while increasing hydrogen production.

"This is a perfect partnership opportunity for PNNL," said Karl Mueller, who leads the development of physical sciences research at PNNL. "Our teams have spent decades delving into electrochemistry, creating a rich knowledge base to help understand seawater electrolysis. This collaboration is a way to address a critically important scientific problem while training new scientists."

An electrochemical exchange

Electrochemistry has broad applications within a carbon-neutral future, but is rarely taught to undergraduate students.

The 10-week research experience at PNNL has helped the UOG team kick off their electrochemical education. Understanding the reactions and electrochemical processes is a challenge that requires specific knowledge and equipment which is available at the national laboratories.

"It's been challenging to learn about the electrochemistry, since it's so new to me," said Merry Remetira, one of the UOG undergraduates currently at PNNL. "But it's been exciting to do experiments and see the science in action. We've gotten to see hydrogen bubbles coming off the electrode, which was really cool."

Currently, the team from UOG is focused on learning electrochemistry techniques to take back to Guam to study seawater electrolysis. The full experimental setup at PNNL is a perfect test ground for the UOG researchers. They can explore all types of electrochemistry measurements, run baseline testing, and determine the most effective measurements to perform for the rest of the project when they return to UOG.

The team is using model solutions to create a set of standards to compare them against more complex systems and the new setups in Guam.

The process involves hands-on learning in the laboratory, coupled with computational work. The students are involved in a summer course to learn the coding language, Python, and are broadening their skill sets even further.

"There's something exciting about being one of the first students on this project," said Anna Mallari, a UOG undergraduate. "We're bringing back new knowledge that can help the island.

Developing a renewable research hub

Limtiaco has sights on recruiting more students to join the project for the next two years of the three-year project.

As the largest research university and scientific hub of the region, UOG draws students from across Micronesia. The team sees this project as an initial step to a much larger program. "It starts with building our own expertise with help from PNNL," said Limtiaco.

"Once we develop a research program, we can broaden it beyond this single project. We've already talked about future work with electrochemical waste conversion or finding ways to use the carbon dioxide dissolved in the ocean. The opportunities and collaborations with PNNL are just beginning."

As the three-year project progresses, the exchanges will continue. In addition to continuing the summer experiences at PNNL, the team already has plans for PNNL staff to visit the laboratory spaces in Guam in 2024.

This trip will allow PNNL researchers to work directly with the experimental setups at UOG and learn from the university's seawater experts.

The project is about more than just research.

The undergraduates who visit PNNL will share their knowledge with middle and high school students throughout Guam through demonstrations and other recruitment activities. They will become ambassadors for scientific research, encouraging younger students to consider the possibility of becoming scientists.

"A lot of students at UOG come from small islands," said de Peralta, "Seeing an Indigenous Chamorro scholar, like Dr. Limtiaco, leading this project shows Indigenous students a potential future for them in research. When we couple that with the connections from PNNL, we think this could have important effects on the next generation in Guam and the surrounding islands."

This research was funded by the Department of Energy's Office of Science. The project also included former PNNL researcher Oliver Gutierrez-Tinoco.

PNNL

An electrochemical cell used to study seawater electrolysis.

Contact FEMA for continued temporary housing assistance

GUAM—For those Typhoon Mawar survivors who received initial rental assistance, it's important to stay in touch with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as you may be eligible for continued rental assistance. The initial grant is for the first two months. If you have exhausted the initial amount and need more, you may apply for continued assistance in three-month periods— up to 18 months from the President's major disaster declaration, or Nov. 28, 2024.

There are a few simple steps to apply for Continued Temporary Housing Assistance:

■ Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 and ask for an Application for Continued Temporary Housing

Assistance. Helpline operators can arrange interpretation in many languages if requested.

■ You may upload the completed application to your disaster account at DisasterAssistance.gov or fax it to

800-827-8112, or mail it to FEMA, P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville MD 20782-8055.

You will need to submit the following documents with the completed application:

■ Pre- and post-disaster income for household members 18 and older.

■ Proof of pre-disaster housing costs (copy of lease and utility bills, renter's insurance, mortgage statements, real estate taxes, homeowner's insurance, etc.)

■ Proof of post-disaster housing costs (copy of current lease or rental agreement signed by the applicant and the landlord, rent receipts and post-disaster utility bills, renters' insurance, etc.).

Visit the following links for the latest information:

■ Governor's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/govlouguam

■ GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/

■ GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/ ***(PR)***

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

House Speaker Mike Johnson does wrong by Israel and Ukraine

Israel, under attack from murderous Hamas terrorists, needs American financial and military support, even as the beleaguered civilian population of Gaza deserves humanitarian help: Republicans in Congress entirely agree with President Biden and Democrats there. They are all together on the urgency to send assistance to Israel battling against Hamas.

Where Republicans break with Biden—or at least a significant slice of them under the thrall of former President Donald Trump do—is in also aiding Ukraine, which has been under brutal attack from Russia for a year and eight months. Against all expectations, Volodymyr Zelenskyy has rallied Ukrainians to fend off Moscow's invasion.

The consequences are quite clear: Should America give up on Ukraine, Ukraine will fall to Vladimir Putin's forces, and the message will be clear that the strong can gobble the weak even when the world says no. The message will be sent that despite endless strident statements about how morally unacceptable it is for one country to invade a sovereign neighbor, if you wait long enough—less than two years—the world will lose its will and accept the supposedly unacceptable.

It comes as little surprise that Trump, who coddled Putin during his four years in office, has a soft spot for the Russian strongman. And just as Trump is in Putin's thrall, congressional Republicans are in Trump's.

Bending to them, new Speaker of the House Mike Johnson is intent on separating the two requests for foreign aid, Israel and Ukraine. Moreover, Johnson proposes paying for the aid to Israel by slashing tens of billions of dollars in funding for more robust IRS enforcement, an asinine, ideologically motivated push that will forfeit much more revenue than it "saves."

The reason Johnson wants to put Ukraine assistance in a separate bill is that he knows there's dwindling support in his rambunctious conference for standing up to Putin; he'd rather say the GOP stood up to help Israel than put anyone in the MAGA camp in the uncomfortable position of having to back Ukraine aid if they want to stand with Israel, or having to vote down aid for Israel if they so staunchly oppose American help for those fighting for their freedom and independence in Ukraine.

There's nothing inherently right about combining two costly foreign aid spending measures in a single bill—but Johnson likely wants to separate the two so he never has to bother bringing Ukraine aid to the floor at all, even though it most certainly has majority support. Moreover, Johnson's approach to separate the two and demand IRS-slashing offsets will go nowhere in the Senate, as it shouldn't.

Yoking the Israel aid and IRS cuts together makes the speaker's cynical maneuver impossible, so—especially in light of rapidly approaching funding deadlines—it's a wholly understandable step.

Either Johnson and Republicans should accept a single, combined bill helping Israel and Ukraine alike in their moment of need, or they should commit to bringing both bills to the House floor, even if that means their passage will depend in part on Democratic votes. Johnson must fear he'd risk the speaker's gavel should some Republicans rebel.

Two American allies are desperate for help. It is no time to let petty American divisions stand in the way.

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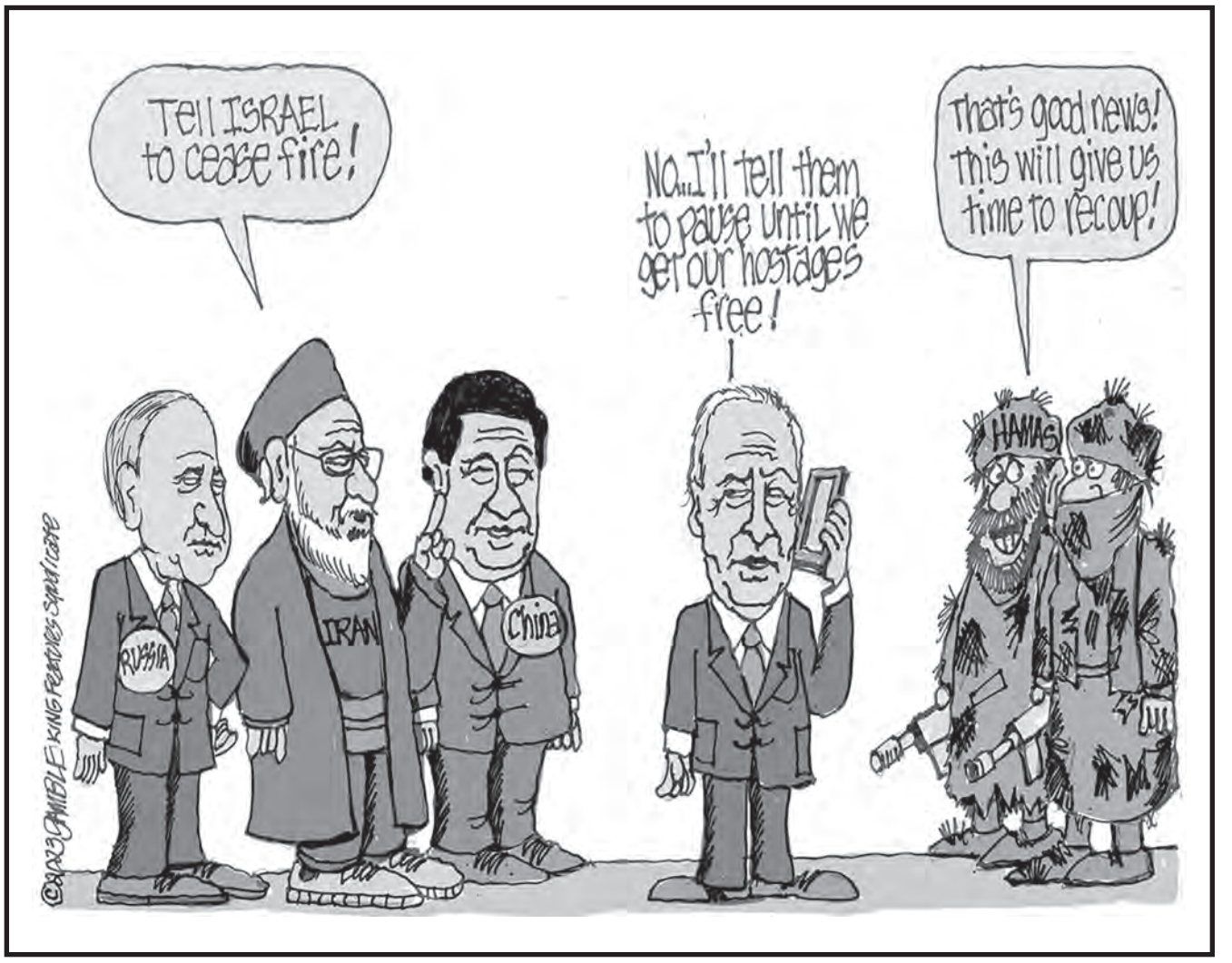
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Three very dangerous zombie lies

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

You probably know what a "zombie lie" is, but, just in case, it's an idea or proposition or theory that is demonstrably, logically and intuitively false but which, like a zombie, refuses to die. And it will eat your brain.

The term's origin is uncertain, but I associate it with Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman, who uses it to describe certain right-wing economic theories, such as the idea that the federal government can increase revenue by cutting taxes on the wealthy.

This notion isn't logical, and, in fact, Krugman, other economists and experience have demonstrated that it doesn't work.

Yet Republicans continue to embrace it, as embodied in the 2017 Trump tax cuts that mostly benefited the wealthy. By the way, during Donald Trump's administration, the national debt increased by nearly $8 trillion.

Still, the idea won't die. Like a zombie. Maybe this is why President George H.W. Bush called it "voodoo economics."

Then there's the election denial zombie lie. Former President Donald Trump contended that the 2020 election was rigged before, during and after it occurred. He hasn't stopped, and he's beguiled nearly 70% of his party into saying that they believe the same, despite the lack of evidence. In fact, considerable evidence puts the lie to the election denial zombie lie. But it lives on.

> How do these zombie lies continue to rise from the dead like Lazarus and Jesus when they do our society so much harm?

These two zombie lies are dangerous. The first one channels money to the already wealthy, who, in turn, channel money back to politicians who accept and propagate the lie, undermining equality and equity in our society.

The second zombie lie damages our republic; if we don't believe in the validity of elections and the peaceful transfer of power, what sort of future does democracy have in our country?

But the third zombie lie can kill us. Literally.

This lie surfaces after every mass shooting, as it did last month after 18 people were killed during youth night at a bowling alley and at a bar in Lewiston, Maine.

Here's how Sean Hannity expressed it during an interview with new House Speaker Mike Johnson: "If somebody really wants to kill innocent people, there's a lot of ways they can do it beyond using a gun." He found a compliant audience in Johnson, who said, dismissively: "In Europe and in other places they use vehicles to mow down crowds at parades… it's not the weapon, it's the underlying problem…"

The heart of this particular zombie lie is the idea that the type of weapon used by a killer is irrelevant. If someone wants to kill, he could use a baseball bat or an ax or a paperweight or, as some right-wing radio commentators put it, a butterknife or a No. 2 pencil. Yes, they actually said that.

But you can be assured of the absurdity of this lie by asking yourself whether you would rather be trapped in a bowling alley with a deranged killer wielding a baseball bat or even a six-shooter or one with a high-powered assault rifle with several 30-round magazines.

In terms of killing capacity, an assault rifle has the same relationship to the muskets of 1789 as a Lamborghini has to an oxcart. High-capacity, semiautomatic weapons make mass shootings possible, and they make law enforcement's response to them much more difficult and dangerous. Would police officers have hesitated for 74 minutes before taking on the shooter who massacred 19 students and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, if he had been armed only with an ax? Unlikely.

How do these zombie lies continue to rise from the dead like Lazarus and Jesus when they do our society so much harm?

First, they require people who really, really want to believe them. In the case of these three zombie lies, a minority of the citizenship—the rich, the fervent right wing as embodied in the cult of Trump, the gun fetishists as embodied in the National Rifle Association—is sufficient.

And zombie lies require an indifferent or compliant majority. Therefore, wealth inequality grows, mass shootings persist and, if we're not careful, Donald Trump will reclaim the presidency, insisting that American democracy was rigged all along.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Can America afford a new nuclear weapons buildup?

By WILLIAM D. HARTUNG
Tribune News Service

William D. Hartung is a senior research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

Even as the Pentagon budget soars toward $1 trillion per year and President Joe Biden is seeking a $100 billion-plus emergency spending package to, among other things, provide military aid to Ukraine and Israel, a new congressional commission report has suggested spending even more. This time the money would go toward a dangerous and unnecessary nuclear weapons buildup that could devour huge quantities of tax dollars for years to come.

The panel, which officially goes by the rather intimidating name of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, wants to pave the way for a future president to increase or replace virtually every element of America's nuclear arsenal, from nuclear-armed missiles and submarines to new nuclear warheads. Given our current stockpile of over 5,000 nuclear weapons—enough to end life as we know it several times over—the commission's proposals would represent a textbook case of nuclear overkill.

> A large-scale nuclear exchange between the United States and Russia would kill and injure more than 90 million people in the first few hours, and many more in the days and weeks afterward. This is no time for a new nuclear arms race.

At a recent Senate hearing on the commission's report, only a handful of members raised questions about what its recommendations would cost, including Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.). Amazingly, the commission co-chairs not only couldn't say, but acknowledged that they hadn't even tried to make an estimate. At a time when the national debt is over $33 trillion, this is an inexcusable case of fiscal irresponsibility.

The Pentagon is already in the midst of a three-decades-long effort to build a new generation of nuclear weapons that could cost up to $2 trillion. Spending even more would undermine both our military and economic security. The most likely outcome of such an initiative would be an accelerated arms race with Russia and China that would increase, not decrease, the risk of a devastating nuclear conflict.

Why would the commission make such a misguided set of recommendations at a time when America can ill afford to carry them out? The answer seems to be a mix of outmoded thinking and conflicts of interest. To cite just one example, commission co-chair Jon Kyl, a former senator from Arizona, has been a lifelong opponent of nuclear arms control dating back to his successful effort to block United States ratification of a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing that would have slowed the spread of these deadly weapons. After leaving the Senate, Kyl served a stint as a lobbyist for Northrop Grumman, the company that benefits most from our current buildup as prime contractor for a new nuclear-armed bomber and a new land-based, long range nuclear-armed missile.

To the extent that the commission's recommendations have a real-world rationale, it is the prospect that China will build up its nuclear arsenal to 1,000 weapons or more over the next decade, a figure close to but lower than the current level of deployed U.S. nuclear weapons, and far below the overall U.S. stockpile of over 5,000. In any case, preventing nuclear conflict is not a numbers game, as Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has aptly noted: "Nuclear deterrence isn't just a numbers game. In fact, that sort of thinking can spur a dangerous arms race."

Furthermore, as the Arms Control Association has pointed out, "a large-scale nuclear exchange between the United States and Russia would kill and injure more than 90 million people in the first few hours, and many more in the days and weeks afterward. This is no time for a new nuclear arms race."

To add insult to injury, the congressional commission recommends seeking to limit or reduce global nuclear arsenals only after its proposed buildup is well along, an approach that would effectively kill efforts at nuclear arms control for decades to come.

There has to be a better way. The Biden administration and Congress should take the new report with more than a few grains of salt, and devise an alternative plan that can save both money and lives in a world already racked by dangerous conflicts.

Biden and Blinken are planning for 'the day after' war in Gaza ends. Make that years after

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

Last week, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken headed for the Middle East to try to keep Israel's war in Gaza from spinning out of control, and to begin talks on what diplomats call "the day after"—what happens after the shooting stops.

Who will govern a shattered Gaza? Who will feed and house its refugees?

Who will police its ravaged streets?

And perhaps improbably, can the war, however brutal its toll, be turned into an opening for a wider peace?

"When this crisis is over, there has to be a vision of what comes next," President Biden said last month. "And in our view, it has to be a two-state solution"—an agreement under which a sovereign Palestinian state would live side by side with Israel, with security guarantees for both.

Blinken took that message to Tel Aviv on Friday, beginning with a plea to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for "humanitarian pauses" to get food and water to civilians trapped in Gaza.

Netanyahu said there could be no pause unless Hamas releases more than 220 hostages—a sign of how difficult it will be to negotiate even a brief cease-fire.

The "day after" is the wrong way to think about these challenges. Stabilizing Gaza, setting up a new government and reviving progress toward Israeli-Palestinian peace will be the work of years, not days or months.

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I spent last week talking with U.S. diplomats who have worked on past Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, and they all had similar advice: Lower your expectations.

Almost a month after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israeli towns and villages, the war is far from over. Israel appears to have the upper hand, but it isn't clear what winning will look like.

Netanyahu said he intends to "destroy Hamas." Other Israeli officials have offered slightly more limited goals: eliminating Hamas' military capability and ending its rule of Gaza.

"Those goals are desirable, but it isn't clear yet how feasible they are," warned David Makovsky of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, who worked on Israeli-Palestinian talks during the Obama administration. "I wouldn't predict that this is a slam-dunk."

"If Israel achieves its goals, the question is what to do about Gaza," he said. "Israel does not want to occupy Gaza. They don't view it as a prize. They don't want to stay … so they will want to turn it over to somebody."

Last week, Blinken said the most logical candidate to take control of Gaza would be the Palestinian Authority, the de facto government in the West Bank. But its officials are widely viewed as ineffective and corrupt, and Blinken said it would have to be "revitalized" to handle the challenge.

"Putting the [Palestinian Authority] in now? It would be doomed to fail," Makovsky said. "And fixing the P.A. will take a while."

If there's an interim, discussion in Washington and Israel has focused on persuading a consortium of Arab countries to form a peacekeeping force for Gaza, but it isn't clear that anyone wants the assignment.

"What Arab state is going to volunteer to do counterinsurgency against Palestinians in Gaza?" asked Aaron David Miller of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who worked on Arab-Israeli negotiations for more than two decades. "The Egyptians are a logical candidate, and they might do it as a way to regain a closer relationship with the United States … but could it endure over time?"

With all those problems, seeking negotiations toward a two-state solution may sound quixotic. But Biden and other officials insist they are serious.

Blinken says a commitment to a two-state solution is needed so Hamas or an extremist alternative does not rise again.

"We have to combat [Hamas] with a better idea … that gives people something to hope for, to buy into, to grab onto," he said last week.

The administration also has practical diplomatic reasons to pursue a two-state solution. Without it, other Arab states, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, are unlikely to help a peacekeeping effort in Gaza.

Plenty would need to change before a two-state solution begins to look feasible, including in Israel's government. Netanyahu has devoted most of his career to blocking the establishment of a Palestinian state.

A change in the Palestinian Authority would help, too. Its current president, Mahmoud Abbas, is 87, discredited and unpopular.

"Under current circumstances, the two-state solution is basically an aspirational talking point," Miller said.

Earlier wars have led to breakthroughs, he noted. The 1973 Middle East War led to a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt—six years later. The Palestinian uprising that began in 1987 led indirectly to the Oslo Agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, again six years later.

"At some point, Blinken may need to pack a few extra shirts," Miller joked, referring to the shuttle diplomacy that earlier secretaries of State pursued. "But that time is not now. We're still in the middle of a fricking war."

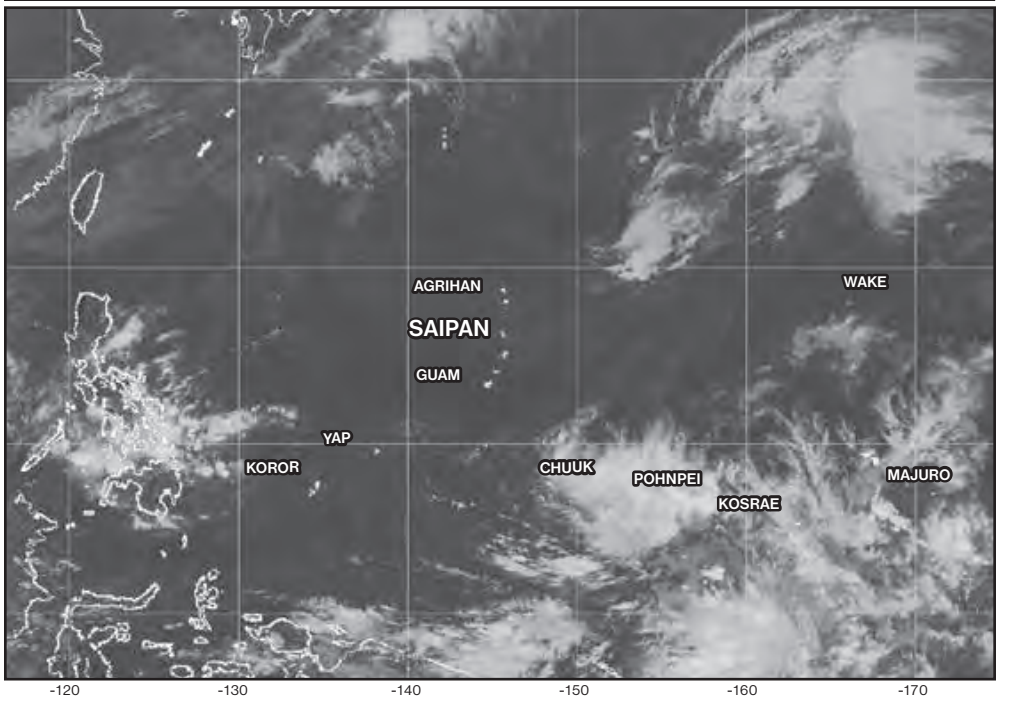
So again, this isn't about the day after. It's about the years after—and many years at that.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87 78°	87 78°	87 78°	87 78°	87 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:20 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Doppler radar and satellite imagery indicate skies are partly cloudy with very few showers across the Marianas. Winds are light to moderate and buoys across the Marianas are reporting combined seas between 3 and 6 feet, with a mix of east and northeast swells.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Fair	66° / 50°
Beijing	Fair	49° / 27°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
London	Showers	61° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 53°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	70° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
New York	Sunny	56° / 41°
Osaka	Sunny	76° / 64°
Paris	Showers	55° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 57°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°
Salem	Sunny	60° / 38°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 46°
Seoul	Sunny	59° / 39°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	80° / 71°
Washington, DC	Sunny	55° / 38°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:50 AM	2:31 PM	-
Thursday	2:36 AM	3:05 PM	-
Friday	3:23 AM	3:38 PM	-
Saturday	4:10 AM	4:13 PM	-
Sunday	4:59 AM	4:50 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:30 AM	High Tide	1.21
9:58 AM	Low Tide	0.34
4:58 PM	High Tide	1.67
11:23 PM	Low Tide	0.66

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Micronesia Mall reveals grand prize for Shop, Dine & Win promotion

DEDEDO, Guam—Micronesia Mall announced the launch of the Shop, Dine & Win promotion on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, at 1pm at its Center Court.

With major sponsors Atkins Kroll, Goodwind Travel GSA for Philippine Airlines, Burger King, and Foot Locker, the Mall revealed the new vehicles and prizes to be given away this coming year:

- 2024 Toyota Corolla LE on Feb. 3, 2024;
- 2024 Toyota Prius LE on June 29, 2024;
- and a 2024 BMW X1 on Nov. 9, 2024.

For each drawing, one lucky Mall shopper will win a grand prize vehicle, while 10 runners-up will each receive a $350 travel certificate for tickets to Philippine Airlines from Goodwind Travel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The band Pastel was one of the live performances in the launch of Micronesia Mall's Shop, Dine & Win promotion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Micronesia Mall's Shop, Dine & Win promotion will have one lucky Mall shopper winning a grand prize vehicle, while 10 runners-up will each receive a $350 travel certificate for tickets to Philippine Airlines from Goodwind Travel.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Micronesia Mall's Shop, Dine & Win revealed the new vehicles and prizes to be given away for its Shop, Dine & Win promotion this coming year,

The event also included speeches from management of Micronesia Mall and major event sponsors, live performances by the band Pastel, giveaways courtesy of Micronesia Mall and Atkins Kroll, and a balloon release coinciding with the grand unveiling of the three grand prize vehicles for the promotional period.

Shop, Dine & Win replaces the long-running Shop & Win, Micronesia Mall's premier vehicle and travel giveaway. After a short hiatus to celebrate their 35th anniversary this year in September, Micronesia Mall decided to revamp the promotion with increased prizes and a fresh new look. The launch this Sunday marked the start of the promotion where the Mall began accepting receipts in exchange for scratch cards to win instant prizes from Burger King or Foot Locker, or entries to win the grand prizes.

For more information or a full schedule of events, visit Micronesia Mall on Facebook and Instagram or by emailing marketing@micronesiamall.com. Thank you in advance for your support and attendance of this event. ***(PR)***

Starbucks increases US hourly wages and adds other benefits for non-union workers

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Starbucks is increasing pay and benefits for most of its U.S. hourly workers after ending its fiscal year with record sales.

But the company said Monday that unionized workers won't be eligible for some of those perks, a sign of the continuing tension between the Seattle coffee giant and the union trying to organize its U.S. stores.

At least 366 U.S. Starbucks stores have voted to unionize since 2021, according to the National Labor Relations Board. But Starbucks and the Workers United union have yet to reach a labor agreement at any of those stores. Starbucks has 9,600 company-operated stores in the U.S.

Starbucks said Monday it will increase wages—which currently average $17.50 per hour—starting Jan. 1. Employees at both union and non-union stores who have worked four years or less will get raises of 3% or 4% depending on years of service.

Employees who have worked five years or more will be eligible for a 5% increase, but since that's a new benefit, it must be negotiated with Workers United and is therefore not available to unionized stores, the company said.

Workers United rejected that claim and said it will file unfair labor practice charges against Starbucks with the NLRB.

"Withholding benefits from unionized stores is against the law," the union said.

Starbucks said it is also shortening the time hourly employees must work before accruing vacation days from one year to 90 days. That benefit is also only available to workers at non-unionized stores.

The company also announced a new North American barista championship open to employees in the U.S. and Canada. The company said program also won't be available to employees at unionized stores since it involves prize money and travel.

Starbucks' actions go against a September ruling by an administrative law judge for the NLRB, who ruled that the company acted illegally last fall when it raised pay only for non-union workers. Starbucks has appealed that ruling, saying NLRB's standards don't allow employers to make unilateral changes in the wages or benefits of unionized employees.

Trump lashes out from the witness stand at judge, NY attorney general

NEW YORK (AP)—A defiant Donald Trump sparred with a New York judge and slammed the state attorney general suing him Monday, using the witness stand at his civil fraud trial to defend his riches and lash out at a case that imperils his real estate empire.

The former president's barbed testimony spurred the judge to admonish, "This is not a political rally."

Trump's long-awaited testimony about property valuations and financial statements was punctuated by personal jabs at state Judge Arthur Engoron, who he said was biased against him, and New York Attorney General Letitia James, whom he derided as a "political hack." He proudly boasted of his real estate business — "I'm worth billions of dollars more than the financial statements" — and disputed claims that he had deceived banks and insurers.

"This is the opposite of fraud," he declared. Referring to James, a Democrat whose office brought the lawsuit, he said, "The fraud is her."

The testy exchanges and frequent rebukes from the judge underscored Trump's unwillingness to adapt his famously freewheeling rhetorical style to a formal courtroom setting governed by rules of evidence and legal protocol. His presence on the stand was a vivid reminder of the legal troubles he faces as he vies to reclaim the White House in 2024.

It also functioned as a campaign platform for the former president and leading Republican presidential candidate to raise anew to supporters his claims of political persecution at the hands of government lawyers and judges.

"People are sick and tired of what's happening. I think it is a very sad day for America," Trump told reporters outside the courtroom after roughly three-and-a-half hours on the stand.

The fraud case doesn't carry the prospect of prison as Trump's upcoming criminal cases do. But its allegations of financial impropriety cut to the very heart of the brand he spent decades crafting. Engoron has already ruled that Trump committed fraud by inflating his financial statements, putting the the ex-president's future control of Trump Tower and his other marquee properties into question.

The non-jury trial addresses other claims in the lawsuit brought by James against Trump, his company and top executives, including his eldest sons. She wants the defendants to fork over what she claims is more than $300 million in ill-gotten gains and to be banned from doing business in New York.

The civil trial is one of numerous legal proceedings facing Trump as he runs for a second term, including federal and state charges accusing him of crimes including illegally hoarding classified documents and scheming to overturn the 2020 presidential election. His legal and political strategies have now become completely intertwined as he hopscotches between campaign events and court hearings, a schedule that will only intensify once his criminal trials begin.

Trump has been particularly engaged in his fraud trial, aggrieved by the suggestion that he's worth less than he's claimed.

"I'm worth billions of dollars more than the financial statements," he said Monday on the stand, telling a state lawyer, "You go around and try and demean me and try and hurt me, probably for political reasons."

Nation

Tuesday's elections will be shaped by politics of abortion

» Here are major races to watch

AP

People gather in the parking lot of the Hamilton County Board of Elections as people arrive for early in-person voting in Cincinnati, Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Several states will participate in Tuesday's off-year general election that will determine the next governor in two states and provide insight into how abortion rights are shaping American politics.

Voters in Kentucky will decide whether to give a second term to Gov. Andy Beshear, a Democrat running in a heavily Republican state. In Mississippi, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves is seeking reelection against a cousin of rock 'n' roll legend Elvis Presley.

In those races and others across the country, access to abortion has been a frequent topic in campaign debates. Ohio voters will decide on a constitutional amendment supported by abortion rights groups and both Democrats and Republicans have campaigned for control of Virginia's legislature by arguing the other party is wrong on abortion.

Here's a look at Tuesday's major races.

Kentucky governor

Beshear seeks a second term in a heavily Republican state Donald Trump carried twice. The GOP nominee is Daniel Cameron, who succeeded Beshear as state attorney general.

Beshear has called the state's restrictive abortion law "extremist" for not allowing exceptions in cases of rape and incest. He also vetoed a proposal banning abortions after 15 weeks. Cameron says he supports the state law and that as governor he would sign a bill amending it to allow rape and incest exceptions. But at times he has had difficulty clarifying what exceptions he favors.

Beshear, the son of former two-term Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear, was first elected in 2019 when he defeated GOP incumbent Matt Bevin by less than half a percentage point. Cameron is a former aide to U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and endorsed by Trump. If elected, he would become the first Black Republican governor since Reconstruction.

Ohio constitutional amendment on abortion

Ohio voters will decide whether to amend the state Constitution to protect access to abortion services.

The measure would establish the right to "make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions" on matters including abortion, contraception and fertility treatment. It would also allow for abortions to be banned once it has been established that the fetus can survive outside of the womb, unless a physician determines that continuing with the pregnancy would endanger the patient's "life or health."

In August, voters rejected a measure that would have made it more difficult to approve Tuesday's abortion proposal. That contest was seen as a proxy fight on reproductive rights and received national attention.

Virginia General Assembly

Control of both chambers of Virginia's state legislature is up for grabs, with Republicans holding a narrow majority in the state House and Democrats leading the state Senate. Either or both chambers could flip and possibly give Republicans full control of state government. That would clear the way for Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin to implement a ban on abortions after 15 weeks with exceptions for rape, incest and when the mother's life is endangered. Democratic candidates have campaigned heavily on the issue.

In addition to the three marquee races in Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia, the Associated Press will report vote totals and winners in 346 contested races in 12 states. Here are some other notable races to watch:

Mississippi governor

Reeves is running for a second term against Democrat Brandon Presley, a state utility regulator and cousin of Elvis Presley. Democrats held the Mississippi governorship for almost all of the 20th century, but Republicans have controlled the office for the last 20 years. With help from a sizable cash infusion from the national party, Presley outraised Reeves this year and essentially matched him in spending, but the incumbent entered the final stretch of the campaign with more money.

Reeves was first elected in 2019 with 52% of the vote. Both chambers of the state legislature are also up for election.

Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Democrat Gabe Amo and Republican Gerry Leonard face off in a special election to complete the term of former Democratic U.S. Rep. David Cicilline, who resigned in May after seven terms. The district has voted reliably for Democrats. Cicilline was first elected in 2010 and won his last five reelection bids with 60% of the vote or higher. Democrat Patrick Kennedy previously held the seat for 16 years.

Rhode Island US House District 1

Democrat Carolyn Carluccio and Democrat Daniel McCaffery are the nominees to fill a vacant state Supreme Court seat that could play a significant role on voting-related cases during the 2024 presidential campaign.

Mayors

In Houston, 17 candidates are vying to replace term-limited Mayor Sylvester Turner. Notable hopefuls include U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and state Sen. John Whitmire, both Democrats.

In Uvalde, Texas, where a gunman killed 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School last year, the candidates for mayor are former news reporter Kimberly Mata-Rubio, whose daughter was killed in the shooting, former mayor Cody Smith and elementary school teacher Veronica Martinez.

In Bridgeport, Connecticut, Mayor Joe Ganim is seeking an eighth term, but on Wednesday, a state judge made the unusual move of ordering a re-do of the September Democratic primary after evidence surfaced of possible ballot stuffing. The date for the new primary has not been set but will take place after Tuesday's general election. AP will tabulate vote results of the Tuesday election but will not declare a winner until the legal challenges have been resolved.

In Derby, Connecticut, incumbent Mayor Richard Dziekan is running as an independent for a fourth term after losing the Republican primary to alderman Gino DiGiovanni, Jr., who was charged by federal prosecutors in August with illegally entering the U.S. Capitol during the riot on Jan. 6, 2021.

New York City Council District 9

Criminal justice reform activist Yusef Salaam, who was one of five men convicted and later exonerated in the "Central Park Jogger" rape case, is running unopposed.

Supreme Court takes up case that again tests limits of gun rights

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court is taking up a challenge to a federal law that prohibits people from having guns if they are under a court order to stay away from their spouse, partner or other family members. The justices are hearing arguments Tuesday in their first case about guns since last year's decision that called into question numerous gun control laws.

The federal appeals court in New Orleans struck down the law following the Supreme Court's Bruen decision in June 2022. That high-court ruling not only expanded Americans' gun rights under the Constitution, but also changed the way courts are supposed to evaluate restrictions on firearms.

Justice Clarence Thomas' opinion for the court tossed out the balancing test judges had long used to decide whether gun laws were constitutional. Rather than consider whether a law enhances public safety, judges should only weigh whether it fits into the nation's history of gun regulation, Thomas wrote.

The Bruen decision has resulted in lower-court rulings striking down more than a dozen laws. Those include age restrictions, bans on homemade "ghost guns" and prohibitions on gun ownership for people convicted of nonviolent felonies or using illegal drugs.

The court's decision in the new case could have widespread ripple effects, including in the high-profile prosecution of Hunter Biden. The president's son has been charged with buying a firearm while he was addicted to drugs, but his lawyers have indicated they will challenge the indictment as invalid following the Bruen decision.

The outcome probably will come down to the votes of Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Brett Kavanaugh. They were part of the six-justice conservative majority in Bruen, but Kavanaugh wrote separately, joined by Roberts, to underscore that not every gun restriction is unconstitutional.

The case before the court involves Zackey Rahimi, who lived near Fort Worth, Texas. Rahimi hit his girlfriend during an argument in a parking lot and then fired a gun at a witness in December 2019, according to court papers. Later, Rahimi called the girlfriend and threatened to shoot her if she told anyone about the assault, the Justice Department wrote in its Supreme Court brief.

The girlfriend obtained a protective order against him in Tarrant County in February 2020.

Eleven months later, Rahimi was a suspect in additional shootings when police searched his apartment and found guns. He eventually pleaded guilty to violating federal law. The appeals court overturned that conviction when it struck down the law. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the Biden administration's appeal.

Rahimi remains jailed in Texas, where he faces other criminal charges. In a letter he wrote from jail last summer, after the Supreme Court agreed to hear his case, Rahimi said he would "stay away from all firearms and weapons" once he's released. The New York Times first reported the existence of the letter.

Guns were used in 57% of killings of spouses, intimate partners, children or relatives in 2020, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Seventy women a month, on average, are shot and killed by intimate partners, according to the gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety.

A decision in U.S. v. Rahimi, 22-915, is expected by early summer.

Asia

Quake aid reaches Nepal

AP

A survivor looks at her earthquake damaged house in Rukum District, northwestern Nepal, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023.

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Survivors of an earthquake that flattened villages in Nepal's northwest mountains searched through the debris of their collapsed homes for any salvageable belongings Monday as aid trickled into the remote area.

The relatively shallow 5.6 temblo r Friday killed 157 people, injured scores and left thousands homeless when it struck just before midnight, unleashing landslides and collapsing homes in an area of steep slopes centered around the district of Jajarkot. The district is about 400 kilometers (250 meters) northeast of the capital, Kathmandu.

"It felt like the world had collapsed and I was not sure if anyone had even survived and would be able to help," said Mina Bika, who was sleeping with her family when the ceiling of their home fell and buried them.

Her husband was badly injured and taken to hospital in the town of Surkhet, while she and the couple's two sons were only lightly hurt.

Authorities pressed forward Monday with efforts to bring food, tents, medicine and other supplies to the remote villages, many reachable only by foot. Roads also were blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake. Soldiers could be seen trying to clear blocked roads.

Later in the afternoon, the ground shook again with a magnitude 5.3 aftershock that sent people scrambling for safety.

Rescue and search teams said the first part of their mission — to rescue survivors, get the injured to treatment and search for bodies — was over.

"Now we are working on the second phase of our work to distribute relief material, get aid to the villagers, and at the same time we are collecting details about the damages," government official Harish Chandra Sharma said Monday.

Nepal' s National Emergency Operation Center in Kathmandu said that along with the 157 killed, at least 256 people were injured and 3,891 houses were damaged.

In Chepare, villagers were going through piles of rocks and logs that used to be their homes Monday, looking for anything they could salvage.

"Most of what belonged to us is under the rubble, all our beds, clothes, whatever jewelry and money we had, it's all under there," said Nirmala Sharma, pointing to her wrecked home.

She said they got a tent and some food on Sunday night. Authorities distributed rice, oil, instant noodles and salt in the village, to last them for a few days.

Japan and UK ministers to discuss further deepening security ties on sidelines of G7

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese and British foreign and defense ministers are to talk Tuesday about deepening their military cooperation under a new security pact that allows their militaries to enter each other's turf for joint exercises.

Japan and Britain have expanded their cooperation in recent years amid concern about China's growing influence. Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has signed the Reciprocal Access Agreement with Australia and the U.K. so far, making them semi-allies.

The talks in Tokyo among Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defense Minister Minoru Kihara and Britain's Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and Defense Secretary Grant Shapps are the first since the RAA took effect in mid-October.

They are meeting on the sidelines of the meeting of foreign ministers from the Group of Seven advanced nations Tuesday and Wednesday that are expected to focus on the Israel-Hamas war, the Russia-Ukraine war and tension in the Indo-Pacific region.

The four ministers' discussions on Japan-UK security ties are likely to include expanding joint exercises and cooperation in new areas such as space and cybersecurity, based on the Japan-UK Hiroshima Accord reached between Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in May.

Kishida's government in December announced Japan's new mid- to long-term security strategy to build up its security and defense—including counterstrike capability—in a major shift from the country's self-defense-only principle adopted after the last world war, citing growing threats in the region, including from China.

World

Israeli forces cut off north Gaza as it isolates Hamas

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Israeli army severed northern Gaza from the rest of the besieged territory and pounded it with airstrikes Monday, preparing for expected ground battles with Hamas militants in Gaza's largest city and an even bloodier phase of the month-old war.

Already, the Palestinian death toll surpassed 10,000, the Health Ministry of the Hamas-run Gaza Strip said Monday. The ministry does not distinguish between fighters and civilians. About 1,400 people in Israel have died, mostly civilians killed in the Oct. 7 incursion by Hamas that started the war.

The war has quickly become the deadliest Israeli-Palestinian violence since Israel's establishment 75 years ago, with no end in sight as Israel vows to remove Hamas from power and crush its military capabilities.

Casualties are likely to rise sharply as the war turns to close urban combat. Troops are expected to enter Gaza City soon, Israeli media reported, and Palestinian militants who have had years to prepare are likely to fight street by street, launching ambushes from a vast network of tunnels.

"We're closing in on them," said Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, an Israeli military spokesperson. "We've completed our encirclement, separating Hamas strongholds in the north from the south."

BOMBARDMENT IN NORTH GAZA

Several hundred thousand people are believed to remain in the north in the assault's path. The military says a one-way corridor for residents of Gaza City and surrounding areas to flee south remains available. But many are afraid to use the route, part of which is held by Israeli troops.

In recent days, airstrikes have hit United Nations facilities where thousands were sheltering, as well as hospitals, which have been overwhelmed by wounded and running low on power and supplies.

A strike early Monday hit the roof of Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, killing a number of displaced people sheltering on its top floor and destroying solar panels, said Mohamed Zaqout, general manager of all hospitals in Gaza. The panels have been helping keep power on in the facility, which has been reduced to using one generator because of lack of fuel.

The strike came in what witnesses said was one of the heaviest nights of bombardment yet in northern Gaza.

Israel said it struck 450 targets overnight, killing a number of Hamas military commanders. Israel blames civilian casualties on Hamas, accusing the militants of operating in residential neighborhoods.

The overnight barrages crushed homes and buried unknown numbers of people underneath in the Shati refugee camp, a densely built-up district on the Mediterranean coast adjacent to central Gaza City, Palestinians who fled south Monday reported.

Ghassan Abu Sitta, a surgeon at Shifa Hospital, told The Associated Press the hospital buildings shook all night from the bombardment "and we started getting the bodies and the wounded. It was horrendous."

The military released videos that it said showed its ground troops uncovering Hamas rocket launchers in a youth center and near a mosque in northern Gaza. It did not provide the precise locations where the videos were filmed, and the images did not include any visible landmarks, so The Associated Press could not independently confirm the videos.

Around 70% of Gaza's 2.3 million residents have fled their homes since the war began. Food, medicine, fuel and water are running low, and U.N.-run schools-turned-shelters are beyond capacity. Many people are sleeping on the streets outside.

Mobile phone and internet service went down overnight — the third territory-wide outage since the start of the war — but was gradually restored on Monday.

ISRAEL OPEN TO 'LITTLE PAUSES,' NETANYAHU SAYS

United States President Joe Biden raised the need for humanitarian pauses directly with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a call Monday, but there was no agreement reached, the White House said.

Lulls in the fighting are being sought to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries and the release of some of the estimated 240 hostages seized by Hamas in its raid.

After days of intense diplomacy around the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrapped up his tour of the region Monday. He said efforts to secure a pause, negotiate the hostages' release and plan for a post-Hamas Gaza were still "a work in progress."

Hours later, Netanyahu, in an interview with ABC News, suggested an openness to "little pauses"—although it was not clear whether some kind of small stoppage had been agreed to or whether the U.S. was satisfied with the scope of the Israeli commitment. Netanyahu also said there would be no general cease-fire in Gaza without the hostages' release.

The war has also stoked wider tensions, with Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group trading fire along the border. In another sign of growing unrest, a Palestinian man stabbed two members of Israel's paramilitary Border Police in east Jerusalem before being shot dead, according to police and an AP reporter at the scene. Police said one of the officers, a 20-year-old woman, was later pronounced dead.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli forces shot to death four Palestinian men in a vehicle in the city of Tulkarem, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The military said two of the men were high-ranking militants.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, along with Gaza and the West Bank, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for a future state. Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move not recognized by most of the international community; it considers the entire city its capital.

In northern Gaza, a Jordanian military cargo plane air-dropped medical aid to a field hospital, King Abdullah II said early Monday. It appeared to be the first such airdrop of the war, raising the possibility of another avenue for aid delivery besides Egypt's Rafah crossing.

Over 450 trucks carrying aid have been allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt since Oct. 21. But humanitarian workers say the aid is far short of mounting needs.

Good Housekeeping

Top 10 tips for outdoor maintenance

CRYSTAL CRAIG/DREAMSTIME/TNS
Roof maintenance is a critical part of ensuring your home is free of leaks and potential damage.

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

1 Check your front door. Doors leading to the outside can be a key source of energy loss.

2 Maintain your roof. Roof maintenance is a critical part of ensuring your home is free of leaks and potential damage. Biannual or annual check-ups can go a long way towards keeping your home in good condition.

3 Tree Maintenance. Dead trees can be a recipe for disaster, especially during a heavy storm. Removing dead trees and branches is a great way to maintain your home.

4 Monitor your HVAC system. A recommendation is a twice-a-year checkup as you change your system between heating and air conditioning.

5 Refill driveways. Your driveway undergoes continuous heavy-duty usage. Repaving or adding fresh gravel can help to prevent potential accidents or damage.

6 Evaluate lighting. Pathways and entries should be well lit.

7 Check water connections. From your garden hose to outdoor kitchen faucets, ensure connections are tight and secure.

8 Power Wash. Power washing decks and the exterior of your home can help to make it feel renewed and refreshed.

9 Maintain landscaping. From pruning to mulching, proper maintenance can help to preserve the investment you have made to beautify your home.

DREAMSTIME/TNS
Power washing decks and the exterior of your home can help to make it feel renewed and refreshed.

DREAMSTIME/TNS
Pruning and mulching can help preserve the investment you have made to beautify your home.

10 Do an energy assessment. Making sure seals are tight around windows and doors as well as proper insulation of your home, can help save you money on heating and cooling your home.

Ask Angi: How should I prep my kitchen for the holidays?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
Ask Angi

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES
Before you start basting the turkey and preparing the stuffing, it's good to get your kitchen in as good a shape as possible.

If you plan on doing a lot of hosting over the holiday season, your kitchen is likely to get quite a workout. But before you start basting the turkey and preparing the stuffing, it's good to get your kitchen in as good a shape as possible. You can hire a professional housecleaner to handle this, at an average cost of $170, or you can clean your kitchen yourself.

Here's a rundown of some of the most important tips the pros use when they clean house.

Work from top to bottom, back to front

When you're cleaning, dirt and debris tend to gravitate downward, such as crumbs being knocked off your counter when you wipe it down. So, you want to start cleaning the highest points first and sweep/mop the floor at the end. And going back to front (or just picking one corner and working out from there) ensures you won't go over areas more than once.

Think about the areas you ignore

Some parts of your kitchen get very little thought to most of the time. But those are the ones that might need it the most. Sweep underneath and behind appliances, clean debris off refrigerator coils, and scrub into nooks and crannies. Check the tops of door jambs and cabinets, which can retain dust. Don't overlook your range hood; as the months pass, grease can build up on it. Scrubbing off the grease gives it a fresh start! (And if you have cabinets above the stove, check their doors for stuck-on grease as well.

Deep clean your fridge and cabinets

If you have major cooking plans, you're going to need all the space you can get. Go through your refrigerator and discard any expired items. Wipe down all the surfaces, and make sure to get crumbs out of drawers. Then, go through your cabinets and do the same. Scrub all the surfaces beneath them, then put everything back in an organized manner. You'll thank yourself later when Thanksgiving or other holiday meals call for a neat, orderly area.

Clean inside things that don't get much attention

You probably clean your floors and counters on a regular basis, but how often do you clean inside your garbage container? What about your microwave, the bottom of your stove or the window sills in the kitchen? Giving yourself a clean start on all these things going into the holidays will make major meal prep that much easier.

Keep your tools in good shape

This is an excellent time to sharpen your knives, check that all your pots and pans are in good condition, and test all your appliances for any problems. If something's going wrong, fix it now, before you're up to your neck in cooking.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.

Life & Style

Tupac Shakur has an Oakland street named for him

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A stretch of street in Oakland, California, was renamed Friday for Tupac Shakur, 27 years after the killing of the hip-hop luminary.

A section of MacArthur Boulevard near where he lived in the 1990s became Tupac Shakur Way, following a ceremony that included his family members and Oakland native MC Hammer.

"Let his spirit live on the rest of these years in these streets and in your hearts," Shakur's sister Sekyiwa "Set" Shakur told the crowd, wiping away tears at the end of a nearly two-hour ceremony. The sign for Tupac Shakur Way was unveiled moments later.

MC Hammer, the "U Can't Touch This" rapper who spent many of Shakur's final months with him before his 1996 shooting death at age 25, said in his remarks that Shakur was, "hands down, the greatest rapper ever, there's not even a question of that."

AP

A new sign is seen following a street renaming ceremony for Tupac Shakur in Oakland, Calif., Friday, Nov. 3, 2023.

Shakur collaborator Money-B and Oakland hip-hop legend Too Short also spoke at the ceremony.

Shakur was born in New York and was raised there and in Baltimore, but he moved with his mother to the San Francisco Bay Area in the late 1980s. He would live in Oakland in the early 1990s and embraced it as an adopted hometown.

"He claimed Oakland," said City Councilwoman Carroll Fife, who led the effort to rename the street. "He said Oakland gave him his game."

The ceremony came the day after a former Southern California street gang leader pleaded not guilty to murder in the Las Vegas shooting death of Shakur.

Duane Keith "Keffe D" Davis is charged with orchestrating the shooting. He is the only person still alive who was in the vehicle from which the fatal shots were fired and in September, 27 years after the killing, became the only person ever charged with a crime in the case.

Shakur's relatives have kept their distance from the prosecution and made only passing reference to it Friday. Sekyiwa Shakur said her brother "died at 25 years old in gang violence, by the hands of another Black man, by the planning of another Black man, whoever that man may be."

Serena Williams is being honored as 'fashion icon'

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams will be honored at Monday's Council of Fashion Designers of America awards for her career and contributions to American fashion.

Williams, who retired from tennis last year, is the first athlete to win the CFDA's Fashion Icon award. In addition to her groundbreaking tennis career, she is being honored for her work as a designer herself, as an entrepreneur and as a philanthropist.

The fashion industry's equivalent of the Oscars will be held at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan and hosted by Anne Hathaway.

When Williams, now 42, retired from tennis, she said she needed to make the tough choice to focus on motherhood. She gave birth in August to a baby girl, almost exactly a year after her last match as a tennis star. Adira River Ohanian is the second child—and second daughter—for Williams and her husband, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian. Their first, Olympia, was born in 2017.

Williams was making news in fashion well before her retirement from tennis. In 2018, she launched her "S by Serena" clothing line, and in 2019, a jewelry line. In a statement before the event, designer and current CFDA chairman Thom Browne called Williams "one of the most inspiring people in the world ... representing greatness on the highest level." She has been, Browne said, "the ultimate example of individuality in everything she does" and "a true fashion icon."

In her own remarks, Williams said that ever since she was a little girl, "I've used fashion as an outlet to express myself. Fashion gave me the confidence to step on the court and own who I was, and where I knew I was going."

Book publisher sues ex-WH chief of staff Mark Meadows for breach of contract

NEW YORK (AP)—Former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows is being sued by his publisher for contradicting his book's claim about the the 2020 election.

All Seasons Press alleges that sworn testimony by Meadows undermined "The Chief's Chief," in which he wrote that the election was stolen from former President Donald Trump.

In a breach of contract lawsuit filed Friday in Florida, All Seasons cited media reports from last month alleging that Meadows knew Trump had lost to Democrat Joe Biden.

"Meadows' reported statements to the Special Prosecutor and/or his staff and his reported grand jury testimony squarely contradict the statements" in "The Chief's Chief," according to the lawsuit, filed in Sarasota, Florida. A central theme of Meadows' book is that "President Trump was the true winner of the 2020 Presidential Election and that election was 'stolen' and 'rigged' with the help from 'allies in the liberal media,'" the court papers read in part.

Meadows' attorney, George Terwilliger, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

All Seasons is alleging that Meadows damaged sales and the publisher's reputation. All Seasons, a conservative press founded in 2021, is seeking the return of Meadows' $350,000 advance and damages of more than $1 million.

"The Chief's Chief" has sold around 23,000 copies, according to Circana, which tracks around 85% of the print market. Most of those sales came in 2021, when the book came out. All Seasons says it sold approximately 60,000 copies out of a printing of 200,000.

Special counsel Jack Smith has been investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, siege of the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters trying to stop Congress from certifying Biden's victory. Last month, ABC News reported that Meadows had been granted immunity by Smith and had testified that voter fraud allegations were baseless and that he knew Trump hadn't won.

"If such media reports are accurate, Meadows testified under oath that his book contains known falsehoods," All Seasons alleged in its breach of contract suit.

Grandparents prepare final gift for thankless grandkids

DEAR ABBY: For years, we have given generous gifts to our six out-of-town grandchildren and received almost no thanks or acknowledgment. It hurts my feelings because I devote a lot of thought, in addition to money, to choosing something special for each of them.

Obviously, they don't care, but when we have just sent checks, not knowing what they read, wear or want, our checks are always cashed. It's the same with gift cards. This year, we will send gifts to their parents—our own children. PERIOD. The grandchildren will receive your Letters Booklet—including the section on writing thank-you notes. Please send me six before the end of November.

TICKED OFF GRANNY IN OREGON

DEAR TICKED OFF: The issue you have raised is one I hear about often from other "ticked off" readers each year. I'm sorry you didn't mention how old your grandchildren are, because the fault may lie with their parents, who should have taught their children this social skill from the time they were old enough to hold a writing implement. Some people procrastinate because they don't know how to express their feelings via the written word and fear they will say the wrong thing. They mistakenly think a thank-you note must be long and flowery when, in fact, short and to the point is more effective.

This is why the "How to Write Letters" booklet was written. It contains samples of thank-you letters for birthday gifts, shower gifts and wedding gifts, as well as those that arrive around holiday time. (It also includes letters of congratulations and ones regarding difficult subjects, such as the loss of a parent, a spouse or a child.)

This booklet can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address plus a check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby Letters Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

With the holiday season fast approaching, this is the perfect time to reply with a handwritten letter, note or well-written email. Although handwritten notes are the "gold standard," many folks these days opt to take a shortcut by using technology that didn't exist before the quill and inkwell.

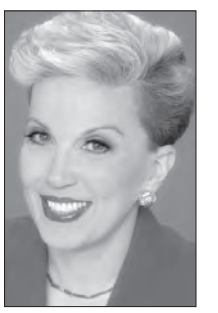
While texts may seem cold or terse, they are better than no acknowledgment at all.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 63-year-old heterosexual male who has recently joined an adult dating site to enhance my social and sexual life. A therapist suggested that it would help me to break out of my isolation and heal from the trauma of childhood sexual abuse. Could you please recommend some dating etiquette? What support organizations can assist with my recovery efforts?

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

LOOKING IN THE WEST

DEAR LOOKING: Ask your therapist to suggest some sites you should visit. After you have looked them over, ask your therapist how to proceed. You are paying for emotional support from this person, and this is who should actually assist you with your recovery. If it works, stick with this therapist. If it does not, contact R.A.I.N.N. (Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network) at rainn.org to see if you are on the right track.

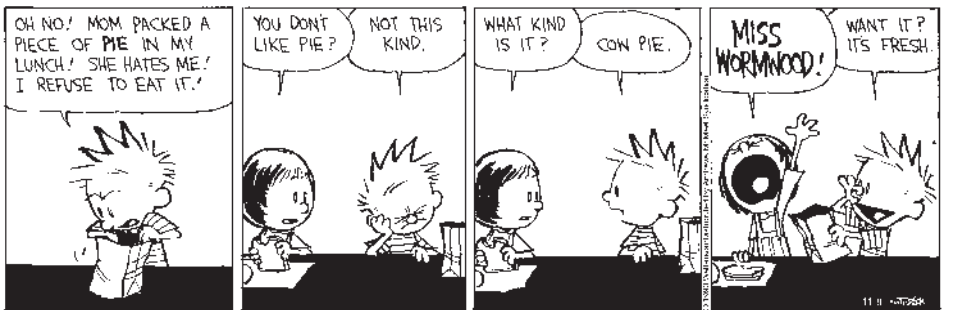
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

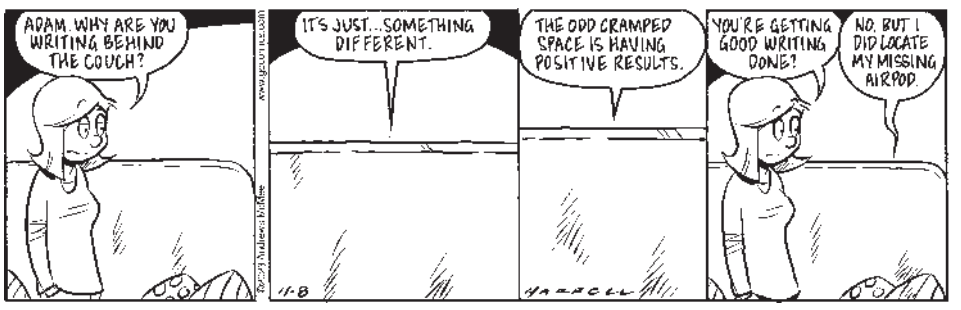

OH NO! MOM PACKED A PIECE OF PIE IN MY LUNCH! SHE HATES ME! I REFUSE TO EAT IT!
YOU DON'T LIKE PIE?
NOT THIS KIND.
WHAT KIND IS IT?
CON PIE.
MISS WORMWOOD!
WANT IT? IT'S FRESH.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM, WHY ARE YOU WRITING BEHIND THE COUCH?
IT'S JUST...SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
THE ODD CRAMPED SPACE IS HAVING POSITIVE RESULTS.
YOU'RE GETTING GOOD WRITING DONE?
NO. BUT I DID LOCATE MY MISSING AIRPOD.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU KNOW THOSE HEALTH SCREENINGS WHERE YOU GO TO THE BATHROOM AND MAIL IT IN?...
I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT WON'T BE PLEASANT FOR YOU, EITHER.
EW, WHAT DO I HAVE TO SEND IN?
A CHECK FOR YOUR OVERDUE ACCOUNT BALANCE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actor Waterston
4 Get wind of
8 Billy of "Titanic"
12 Outback bird
13 Rhine feeder
14 Poker player's declaration
15 Wire measure
16 Potato variety
18 Perfect
20 "— who?"
21 Campus mil. group
24 Small fruit pies
28 Painter's platform
32 Soccer score
33 Sharing word
34 At-tempted
36 Roman 1051
37 Theater award
39 Hyped to excess
41 Gets close
43 Biblical garden
44 Sashimi fish
46 Musical marks
50 Census unit
55 "Unstoppable" singer
56 Highly rated
57 Garfield's pal
58 911 responder
59 Suitable
60 Teller's partner
61 "Didn't I tell you?

DOWN

1 Big rig
2 During
3 Stubborn beast
4 Barn area
5 — de cologne
6 Noah's vessel
7 Antique cars
8 Move evasively
9 Latin 101 word
10 Zero
11 Finale
17 Mosquito barrier
19 Canine greeting
22 Lawn mower brand
23 Music mogul Davis
25 Former QB Tony
26 Towering
27 Lost traction
28 Anon
29 Rubik's baffler
30 Operatic solo
31 Monopoly card
35 City on the Elbe
38 Deleted
40 NBC sketch show
42 That lady
45 Denny's rival
47 Applications
48 Frost
49 Appease
50 Crone
51 Tic-tac-toe win
52 Half of dos
53 Verse by Neruda
54 — -Manuel Miranda

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	A	Y	A		A	C	E	R		I	L	E
G	N	E	S		M	A	L	E		N	I	A
I	C	E	S	T	O	R	M	S		K	I	R
			E	A	R	L		O	A	S	I	S
F	Y	I	N	G			G	R	I	T		
R	E	N	T		B	O	A	T	R	A	C	E
S	O	N		C	L	U	B	S		I	C	N
T	H	E	C	O	O	R	S		K	N	O	T
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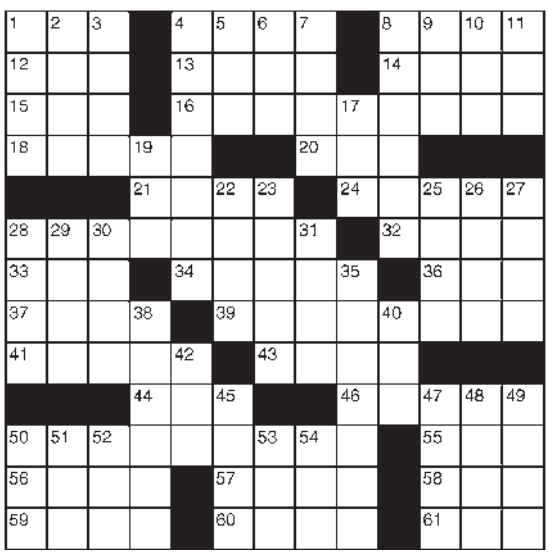
D	E	F		N	E	E	D		D	I	C	R

Yesterday's answer 11-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jack Osbourne, 38; Parker Posey, 55; Courtney Thorne-Smith, 56; Bonnie Raitt, 74.

Happy Birthday: Change is necessary; call on those who can help you finish what you start. Don't limit the outcome this year because you are too proud to ask for something. Be the mastermind behind your plan, and pick the best candidate to execute your command. It's time to update your way of thinking and doing things. Focus on the best way to get things done on time. Your numbers are 5, 17, 21, 27, 34, 44, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't volunteer or let anyone rope you into something that isn't beneficial. Work quietly behind the scenes on something you enjoy doing that will help you reach a personal goal. Help yourself to get ahead instead of counting on others. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You are ready, so don't stop short of reaching for the stars. Trust your ability, experience and desire to reach your chosen destination. An open dialogue will clear up any questions and give you the confidence to forge ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take better care of yourself. Say no to temptation and letting others take advantage of you. Make changes because you want to, not because someone uses emotional manipulation. Learn from the experience and set the record straight if someone offers false information. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Opportunity knocks; don't be afraid to open the door. Your calling card will be how you handle others and situations as they unfold. Don't fall short because you fear failure. Step up and take the initiative to move mountains to get what you want. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Communication will spare you anxiety. Ask and filter through the information you receive, and you'll figure out how to reach your objective using what's available. Don't let what others decide to do stand in your way. Take on what's doable and proceed. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Gravitate toward learning experiences, positive change and creating opportunities that encourage growth and happier days ahead. Participate in events that offer an inside view of what's trending, and you'll find a way to update your goals. Make decisions before someone makes them for you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pay attention to detail and what's happening around you. Keep close tabs on spending contracts and do your best to live a healthy lifestyle. Don't let laziness flare up, causing you to miss an opportunity that can define a better future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov- November 21):* Apply pressure and finish what you start. Do your fair share, and the help you need to reach your goal will unfold. A partnership will encourage you to pick up the pace and adjust to change. Focus on stabilizing your environment and opening new possibilities. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be careful who you trust. Don't let the changes others make define your next move. Follow the path that leads to your happiness. The less time you spend trying to convince others to see things your way, the more you will achieve. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Open your eyes and understand what's unfolding. Don't believe everything you hear; what you see will depict what's happening. Use common sense and offer practical solutions. Those who agree with you are the ones you want on your team. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stick to simple rules, common sense and frugal spending, and you will bypass scams, temptation and people trying to steal your thunder. Focus on self-improvement, better health and saving. The plan is to put your mind at ease, not to stir up chaos. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You've got what it takes to reach your goal. Ignore those trying to slow you down or take over. Do your own thing at a price you can afford with a smile, and you'll maintain momentum and cross the finish line. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, courageous and helpful. You are aware and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	7				8		6	4
		8					5	
3						7		9
			9				2	6
	6	5	4	2		9		
		9			6	5		
					4		7	8
	8	7	2	6	5			

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/8

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	6	1	5	3	8	9	4
8	4	3	2	9	6	5	1	7
1	5	9	7	8	4	3	2	6
5	6	7	4	3	1	2	8	9
2	9	1	8	6	5	7	4	3
4	3	8	9	2	7	1	6	5
3	1	5	6	4	8	9	7	2
6	7	2	5	1	9	4	3	8
9	8	4	3	7	2	6	5	1

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Difficulty: ★★ 11/7

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BABY FORMULA **Solution: 8 letters**

C	A	L	C	I	U	M	C	I	E	L	O	N	I	L
M	H	T	W	O	R	G	M	U	I	D	O	S	S	A
I	I	O	E	D	I	R	O	L	H	C	M	E	O	B
X	R	N	L	T	E	N	I	D	O	I	E	L	Y	E
E	F	E	E	I	U	F	A	T	L	T	L	E	S	L
T	E	L	A	R	N	N	E	K	A	I	B	N	T	S
A	D	B	E	D	A	E	O	R	F	L	I	I	A	C
R	E	A	L	K	Y	L	D	C	E	D	N	U	B	I
T	C	I	T	I	N	Y	S	N	O	N	F	M	I	T
N	N	L	T	Ⓝ	H	I	D	G	I	C	A	S	L	O
E	A	E	O	Ⓞ	W	A	R	M	S	E	N	L	I	I
C	V	R	B	Ⓡ	R	E	L	D	D	O	T	I	Z	B
N	D	R	Z	Ⓘ	N	C	I	N	A	G	R	O	E	O
O	A	S	C	O	R	B	I	C	A	C	I	D	R	R
C	O	N	T	A	I	N	E	R	R	E	D	W	O	P

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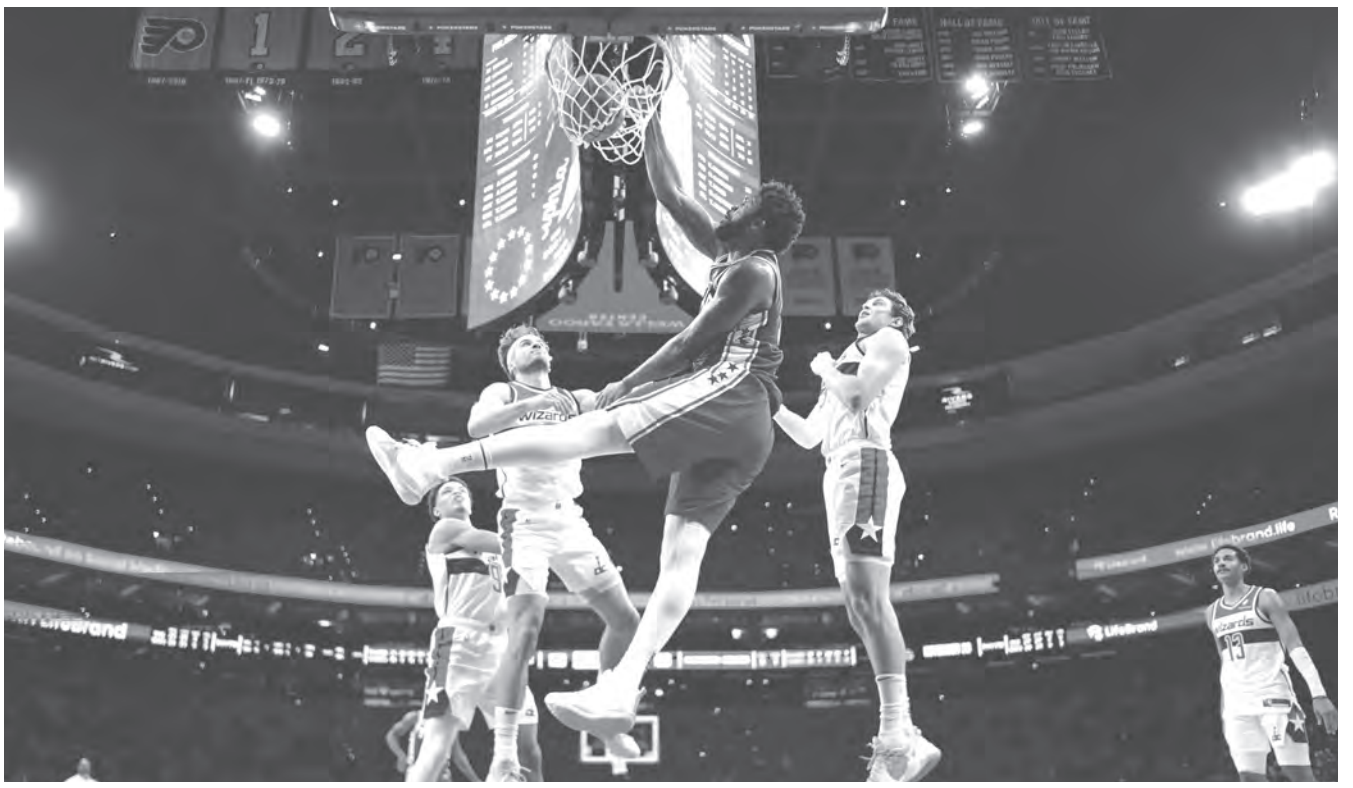
Advanced, Ascorbic Acid, Blend, Bottle, Calcium, Carbohydrate, Chloride, Choline, Coconut, Concentrate, Container, Drink, Fat, Fill, Growth, Infant, Iodine, Iron, Labels, Linoleic, Milk, Minerals, Mix, Oils, Organic, Powder, Probiotics, Protein, Ready, Reliable, Selenium, Sodium, Soy, Stabilizer, Toddler, Warm, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Creatures

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Embiid has 48 points as 76ers beat Wizards for 5th straight win



AP

Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, center, dunks against Washington Wizards' Ryan Rollins, from left, Corey Kispert and Mike Muscala during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joel Embiid scored 29 of his season-high 48 points in the third quarter and the Philadelphia 76ers rolled to their fifth straight victory, 146-128 over the Washington Wizards on Monday night.

Philadelphia is unbeaten after a one-point loss at Milwaukee in its opener.

In the third quarter, Embiid was 10 for 10 from the floor and 9 for 9 from the foul to help the 76ers extend their lead to 120-98. Embiid has scored 40 or more points 40 times in the regular season. He also had 11 rebounds and six assists.

Tyrese Maxey added 22 points and 11 assists, Tobias Harris had 18 and DeAnthony Melton a season-high 14 .

Nicolas Baton, who was picked up as one of the pieces in the trade that sent James Harden to the Los Angeles Clippers, scored 11 points on 4-for-5 shooting in his Sixers debut.

Kyle Kuzma scored 28 points for Washington, and Jordan Poole had 23. The Wizards have lost four straight to fall to 1-5.

HEAT 108, LAKERS 107

MIAMI (AP)—Bam Adebayo had the first 20-rebound triple-double in Miami history, Jimmy Butler scored 28 points and the Heat survived a big offensive drought at the end to beat Los Angeles.

Adebayo had 22 points, 20 rebounds and 10 assists for Miami in what became his sixth regular-season triple-double. Tyler Herro also scored 22 points for the Heat, and Duncan Robinson added 12.

LeBron James had 30 points for the Lakers, who fell to 0-4 on the road. Austin Reaves was an assist shy of a triple-double, finishing with 23 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

The Lakers didn't have Anthony Davis for the final 14 minutes; he left the game twice with a left hip spasm and finished with nine points and six rebounds.

TIMERWOLVES 114, CELTICS 109, OT

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored eight of his 38 points in overtime and Minnesota sent Boston to its first loss of the season

Jaden McDaniels added 20 points, and Rudy Gobert added 14 points and 12 rebounds as Minnesota improved to 4-0 at home in a third consecutive victory.

Jayson Tatum had 32 points and Jaylen Brown added 26 for the Celtics. Boston's 6-0 start was its best since 2009-10.

KNICKS 111, CLIPPERS 97

NEW YORK (AP)—Julius Randle scored 27 points, RJ Barrett had 26 in his return to the lineup and New York spoiled James Harden's debut with Los Angeles.

Barrett had missed the previous two games with a sore left knee.

Harden played 31 minutes and had 17 points and six assists in his first game since being traded from the Philadelphia 76ers.

Mitchell Robinson added 13 points and 14 rebounds as the Knicks snapped ar two-game losing streak and recorded their first home victory of the season.

Kawhi Leonard led the Clippers with 18 points.

NUGGETS 134, PELICANS 116

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic had his 108th triple-double with 35 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists and Denver Nuggets overcame a 20-point, first-half deficit to beat New Orleans.

Jokic broke a tie with LeBron James and Jason Kidd to move into fourth place in triple-doubles. He trails Magic Johnson by 30 for third.

Denver rookie Julian Strawther scored a career-high 21 points of the bench to help overcome the absence of Jamal Murray, who will miss several games with a right hamstring injury.

New Orleans rookie Jordan Hawkins, starting for CJ McCollum, set a career best with 31 points on 7-for-14 shooting from 3-point range. McCollum was ruled out Sunday after an MRI revealed he had a collapsed lung.

PACERS 152, SPURS 111

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Tyrese Haliburton scored 23 points and Indiana routed San Antonio for coach Rick Carlisle's 900th career victory.

Carlisle, second among active coaches in wins, beat the leader, active or otherwise, in Hall of Fame coach Gregg Popovich, who has 1,369 victories, all with the Spurs. The Pacers won in style, tying a team record for most points in a game.

Spurs rookie sensation Victor Wembanyama had his worst shooting night in his first back-to-back, going 3 of 12 and finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Reserve Doug McDermott scored 17 points to lead the Spurs, who lost at home to Toronto on Sunday.

BUCKS 129, NETS 125

NEW YORK (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo had 36 points and 12 rebounds to help Milwaukee beat Brooklyn.

Damian Lillard added 21 points, and Jae Crowder had 15. Milwaukee improved to 4-2 with its first road victory of the season.

Cam Thomas scored 45 points for Brooklyn in his fourth 30-point game of the season. Mikal Bridges had 31 points, and Lonnie Walker IV added 19 points. Brooklyn fell to 3-4 overall and 0-3 at home.

MAVERICKS 117, MAGIC 102

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Luka Doncic returned from a brief absence after bumping his head to score 12 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, leading Dallas past Orlando.

Kyrie Irving and Tim Hardaway Jr. added 21 points as the Mavericks erased a 15-point deficit for the second night in a row to sweep their first back-to-back of the season.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 22 points.

WARRIORS 120, PISTONS 109

DETROIT (AP)—Steph Curry scored 34 points and Golden State dominated on the offensive glass against Detroit.

Golden State had 17 offensive rebounds to Detroit's seven and finished with a 26-10 advantage in second-chance points.

Klay Thompson and Chris Paul each added 17 points for the Warriors. Cade Cunningham and Killian Hayes each had 21 points for Detroit.

ROCKETS 122, KINGS 97

HOUSTON (AP)—Alperen Sengun had 17 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds and Jalen Green scored 23 points in Houston's victory over Sacramento.

The Rockets have won three straight to improve to 3-3. They are .500 for the first time since Oct. 22, 2021, when they started the 2021-22 season 1-1.

Sengun fell just two rebounds shy of his third career triple-double, doing so in just 26 minutes and without playing in the fourth quarter.

Keon Ellis scored 15 points off the bench to lead the Kings with star De'Aaron Fox out for a third straight game because of a sprained right ankle.

THUNDER 126, HORNETS 117

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points in Oklahoma City's victory over Atlanta.

The Thunder's leading scorer sat out Friday against Golden State because of a sprained left knee. He bounced back quickly, making 11 of 20 shots and getting eight rebounds and six assists.

Dejounte Murray scored 29 points for Atlanta, and Trae Young added 22 points and 11 assists not far from the campus where he starred for Oklahoma.

BULLS 130, JAZZ 113

CHICAGO (AP)—Zach LaVine scored 24 points, DeMar DeRozan had 21 and Chicago beat Utah to snap a three-game losing streak.

Coby White added 18 as the Bulls scored a season high in points. Chicago got a boost off the bench as Jevon Carter hit four 3-pointers and scored 12 points, and Andre Drummond added 12 points from inside the paint. Drummond had seven rebounds, reaching 10,000 for his career.

Lauri Markkanen scored 29 points for Utah.

LeBron, back in Miami with the Lakers, reflects on his 4 Heat seasons

MIAMI (AP)—LeBron James couldn't help but notice the new floor in Miami on Monday, the one with the word "Culture" splashed across midcourt and with team president Pat Riley's long mantra painted in each of the lanes.

James and the Los Angeles Lakers were the first opponent to hit the new court, with them making their annual visit to Miami for a Monday night contest. The court is part of the team's primary marketing scheme for 2023-24, with plans calling for the Heat to use the new floor and the uniforms with 'Culture' across the front several times throughout the season.

James took a trip down memory lane Monday, when asked about the court and reflecting on his four seasons with Miami—a span that led to four NBA Finals trips, along with the first two of his four NBA titles. Back then, 'culture' was a Heat philosophy and buzzword; it wasn't splashed on shirts until years later.

"We didn't really talk about it too much," James said. "It was just, you come in, and you work, and the product of how much you put in the work was going to pay off on the floor."

The mantra—"hardest working, best conditioned, most professional, unselfish, toughest, meanest, nastiest team in the NBA"—has been the core of what Riley has spent nearly 30 years building and nurturing in Miami.

"You know, I think everybody on the outside, they probably hear it so much, they're probably tired of hearing about it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said of the 'culture' credo. "But we don't care. You have to stand for something and we stand for that."

It was in the summer of 2010 when the Heat found a way to bring James and Chris Bosh to Miami to play alongside Dwyane Wade. Spoelstra—one of the league's newest coaches at that time—is still coaching the Heat, his current tenure now the second-longest with one team in the NBA behind only San Antonio's Gregg Popovich.

To James, that's the culture—how Riley, Spoelstra, managing general partner Micky Arison, general manager Andy Elisburg and many other top executives—were in Miami long before he arrived, and remain there.

"Besides San Antonio, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New England Patriots, I think those are the only franchises that you can say have the same stability as the Miami Heat," James said.

And James still sees parallels between the way he thinks and the way Riley thinks.

"Riles always talked keeping the main thing the main thing," James said. "And that's what it's always been for me."

James spent his first seven NBA seasons in Cleveland. He left Miami in 2014 to return to Cleveland, won a title there in 2016, and is in his sixth season with the Lakers. He's won a title there—against Miami in 2020 in the bubble—plus passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar last season as the NBA's all-time leading scorer and is now the league's oldest active player.

"I was 25 years old when I came here. Still a kid, even though I was seven years in. Still a kid," James said after shootaround Monday in the Heat arena where his number will one day be retired. "I came here for one reason and one reason only—to win championships. That was my only goal. That's the only reason why I teamed up with D-Wade and Bosh, because I felt like I couldn't do it in Cleveland. I tried to recruit guys to come to Cleveland, tried to go and help upstairs, and it wasn't happening. So, I had an opportunity to be a free agent and did what I thought was best for my career."

Chargers roll past Jets behind Davis' punt return, Ekeler's 2 TDs

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Justin Herbert and the Los Angeles Chargers' offense didn't have to do much against the New York Jets.

Not when their sack-happy defense and opportunistic special teams were making big plays.

Derius Davis returned a punt 87 yards for a touchdown, Austin Ekeler ran for two scores and Joey Bosa and Los Angeles' defense stifled Zach Wilson and the Jets' bumbling offense in the Chargers' 27-6 victory Monday night.

"The defense played terrific today, came up with some big stops and got a lot of turnovers," Herbert said. "Offensively, we can move the ball better. We did a good job not turning the ball over. We had a couple punts and a few miscues, but those are things that we could fix."

Herbert was 16 of 30 for just 136 yards, but became the fastest player in NFL history to 1,500 completions as the Chargers (4-4) snapped the Jets' three-game winning streak.

Keenan Allen had eight catches for 77 yards to reach 10,000 career yards receiving. Los Angeles, which forced New York (4-4) to fumble four times and recovered three of them, sacked Wilson eight times, including 2 1/2 by Bosa and two each by Khalil Mack and Tuli Tuipulotu.

"We did the things that good defenses do," coach Brandon Staley said. "I thought we were physical, we did a really good job against the run game and we rushed the passer. We limited the explosions in the deep part of the field and we were really good in the red zone.

"So it was a team win."

Wilson and the Jets couldn't get anything going despite facing the NFL's worst-ranked passing defense. Wilson was 33 of 49 for 263 yards, and New York went 3 for 17 on third downs and 0 for 2 in the red zone.

"Today was not good, obviously," coach Robert Saleh said. "We just never gave ourselves a chance."

After the Jets went three-and-out on their opening drive, Davis gave the Chargers a 7-0 lead when the rookie fielded Thomas Morstead's punt near the right sideline, avoided a tackle attempt, cut inside and took off—avoiding a few more tackle tries along the way—for an 87-yard touchdown return.

"It was electric," Staley said. "He's got the stuff that's hard to find. He's the one that deserves the credit because he found the crease and hit it."

It was the longest punt return in the NFL this season, and the Chargers' first punt return for a TD since Desmond King brought one back 68 yards against Denver in 2019.

AP

Los Angeles Chargers wide receiver Derius Davis, left, celebrates with teammates after scoring a touchdown against the New York Jets during the first quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

The Jets moved the ball on their next drive, helped in part by a roughing the passer penalty on Bosa—the first such call in New York's favor since 2021. But Garrett Wilson lost a fumble on the next play on a hit by Alohi Gilman, with Derwin James recovering.

"Too many self-inflicted wounds," Zach Wilson said. "Just not good enough."

Los Angeles couldn't take advantage of that takeaway, but did so after Bosa strip-sacked Zach Wilson and recovered the fumble on the Jets' next drive.

From the Jets 21, Ekeler slipped two tackle tries and zipped downfield and into the end zone and celebrated a touchdown—but was ruled out at the 1. He got into the end zone again two plays later, but it was negated because D.J. Reed was called for defensive offside.

Ekeler celebrated again—and it counted this time—on the next play when he punched it in to make it 14-0 with 2:45 left in the opening quarter.

Greg Zuerlein's 47-yard field goal cut the Jets' deficit to 14-3 with 5:57 remaining in the first half. Cameron Dicker's 55-yarder as time expired made it a two-touchdown lead again for the Chargers heading into halftime.

Dicker's 38-yarder in the fourth quarter made it 20-6 on a drive helped by a circus catch by Allen, who fully extended to reach for a high throw and snagged it with his left hand before corralling it with both hands as he rolled to the turf for a 23-yard reception on third-and-4.

The sensational grab put Allen over the 10,000-yard milestone.

"You don't get to 10,000 yards without being that ultimate example of consistency," Staley said.

Ekeler ran it in from 2 yards out to make it 27-6 one play after Mack had a strip-sack of Wilson and Gilman returned it 48 yards to set up the sealing score.

HERBERT RECORD

Herbert got his 1,500th career completion in his 57th game, besting the record shared by Patrick Mahomes and Matthew Stafford, who did it in their 62nd games.

Herbert got it on his 11th completion, a 4-yard screen pass to Allen in the third quarter. He now has 1,505 career completions.

JOLLY RODGERS

Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers, eight weeks to the day of tearing his left Achilles tendon in the season opener, was on the field throwing passes again in warmups.

The 39-year-old Rodgers, who has said his goal is to return before the end of this season, dropped back and stepped into a few passes that traveled around 50 yards.

REVIS' RING

Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrelle Revis received his Hall of Fame ring during a halftime ceremony.

The former cornerback and four-time All-Pro played for the Jets from 2007-12 and 2015-16 and was inducted into the hall in Canton, Ohio, in August.

Eagles stand strong as best in NFL even as Jalen Hurts stands in pain on bad knee

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jalen Hurts showed a rare moment of candor for a player who barely acknowledges he's playing through injury. The effects of a bruised left knee that forced him to hobble to the sideline just before halftime are taking a toll.

Yes, even Hurts needs time off.

"Selfishly," he said, "I don't think the bye week could have come at a better time."

The Eagles stand strong as the only 8-1 team in the NFL even as Hurts stands in pain. The Eagles are off this week ahead of a Super Bowl rematch against Kansas City, giving Hurts a needed respite from the lingering pain in his knee that has plagued him most of the season. Hurts keeps brushing off questions about the severity of the injury—even feigning ignorance when asked about a direct helmet-to-knee hit that briefly staggered him in a win against Dallas—because that's just the way he's built.

"That's who he is," Philadelphia coach Nick Sirianni said. "Whether his body is feeling 100%, whether his body is not feeling 100%, which nobody's body is at this particular time, he's a warrior. He's going to play through bumps and bruises and at a high level because he's a big-time player."

The defending NFC champions are in firm control of the NFC East. Sunday's win gives them not only a 2 1/2-game lead in the standings, the Eagles can tack on an extra game because they hold the tiebreaker over the Cowboys.

Hurts set a franchise QB record with his 33rd career rushing TD and moved to sixth on the Eagles' career list for passing yards. The 25-year-old should have a long career ahead of him to try to set the record. But so much, of course, depends on his health.

Hurts said he doesn't know to manage the injury going forward. A week off is expected to help. His teammates have gushed over the way Hurts continues to thrive despite injuries.

"I don't like it being that way," Hurts said. "I love to be all good, but I'd do anything for this city and for my teammates."

WHAT'S WORKING

Teamwork. Take a look at the final stats and there was nothing on paper that really stood out. No 100-yard rusher. No 100-yard receiver. Hurts' passing numbers alone weren't necessarily eye-popping. And 10 penalties for 98 yards was pretty outrageous.

But when the Eagles really needed a play made, someone stepped up.

DeVonta Smith was open in the corner of the end zone for a 29-yard score and 21-17 lead. Linebacker Zach Cunningham prevented a score on a hit that flipped Dak Prescott to the 1-yard line. Josh Sweat sacked Prescott for an 11-yard loss on the final drive that essentially ended Dallas' last-gasp comeback effort. When a clutch play needed to be made, the Eagles found a way to make one.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The secondary. Prescott threw for 374 yards and three touchdowns. A week earlier, Washington's Sam Howell threw for 397 yards and four touchdowns. Miami's Tua Tagovailoa threw for 324 yards and three touchdowns the week before that one.

The Eagles have made moves to upgrade the secondary, notably trading for two-time All-Pro safety Kevin Byard. But a combination of injuries and inexperience have the Eagles sagging in the backfield.

STOCK UP

Defensive end Brandon Graham. Graham chased Prescott out of bounds on a 2-point conversion attempt and then had 1 1/2 sacks on consecutive plays to thwart a Dallas drive. Graham had a career-best 11 sacks a year ago but changes in the rotation have led to diminished playing time for the 35-year-old 2010 first-round pick. He had only a 1/2 sack entering Sunday. Graham proved he still has big plays left in the tank.

STOCK DOWN

Byard didn't impress in his first home game, drawing an unnecessary roughness penalty in the fourth quarter. Much like all the passing yards gained against Philly, the penalties haven't really cost the Eagles yet. But there could come a time when they catch up to them.

INJURIES

The Eagles lost tight end Dallas Goedert to a significant right forearm injury after he was dragged down by the arm on a tackle. Goedert's number hasn't been called as much this season; he has a modest 38 catches for 410 yards and two touchdowns. Jack Stoll and Grant Calcaterra are among the top candidates to replace Goedert.

KEY NUMBER

25—The Eagles are 25-2 in their last 27 regular-season games started by Hurts. Since 2021, Hurts has a .769 winning percentage (30-9), tops among all NFL QBs. He is just the fifth NFL QB since 1950 to win 25-plus games over the span of 27 starts in the regular season, joining Tom Brady, Peyton Manning, Jim McMahon and Joe Montana.

NEXT STEPS

The Eagles have a Super Bowl rematch when they return from their bye to play the Kansas City Chiefs on "Monday Night Football." The Nov. 20 game is also another edition of the Kelce Bowl. Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce faces his brother, podcast partner and Eagles center Jason Kelce.

TakeCare Interscholastic badminton season kicks off

The TakeCare Interscholastic Badminton League Middle School Division started the badminton season for the 2023-2024 school year with nine teams entered in the competition that began last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Community School, Hopwood Middle School 1 and 2, Saipan International School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, and Chacha Oceanview Middle School played in the first set of games to open the action in the MS division, as each participating team fielded entries in the boys and girls singles and doubles, and mixed doubles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Francisco M. Sablan Middle School student reaches for the shuttlecock to return to his foe from Chacha Oceanview Middle School during one of the opening games in the TakeCare Interscholastic Badminton League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The defending champion Geckos, who ruled the first two seasons of the MS division, open their bid for a three-peat against Hopwood 2 on Court 3 for the Bracket 2 pairings. Also in Bracket 2 are Chacha and FMS, which collided on Court 4. Completing Bracket 2 is Tanapag Middle School, which had its season debut in the second set of matches against Hopwood 2.

For the Bracket 1 matches, Hopwood 1 challenged SCS. Last year's runner-up Agape Christian School and Tinian Middle School are also in Bracket with the latter drawing a bye in the opener and will be playing its first game of the season on Nov. 18. Agape, on the other hand, had its season-opening match versus Saipan Community.

Teams will play in a round-robin format in the preliminaries and the top squad in each bracket will square off for the championship. The No. 2 finishers in each bracket will battle for third place.

Meanwhile, Public School System athletic director Nick Gross welcomed the participating teams for the 2023-2024 badminton season. He also thanked sponsor TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. for its continued support to the program and the Northern Marianas Badminton Association for running the competition, which will also feature high school teams next month.

TakeCare has been the sponsor of the Interscholastic Badminton League since its inception in the 2021-2022 school year, while the NMBA has led the growth of the program in the school level, both in public and private schools. From just 107 players in the inaugural season, NMBA saw the program's number grow to 194 the next season for a staggering 81 percent in increase overall participation—the most out of the six sports programs offered in schools.

"We hope to continue encouraging more students to play badminton to be able to create a deeper pool of young players that we can train and develop to represent the NMI in high-level competitions. We are pleased with the support we are getting from the PSS Athletic Department and the PSS leadership, and of course the different schools that have been participating in our league. Together, we work on providing opportunities for our students through the sport of badminton," NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said. ***(PR)***

HS girls All-Star v-ball game this Friday

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Volleyball Association and school team coaches have organized a girls volleyball All-Star game for Friday, 6pm at the Agape Gymnasium.

NMIVA board member Shawn Davis said in an email that the chosen players from each high school varsity team of the PSS Girls High School Volleyball 2022-2023 season will showcase their skills in a 3-out-of-5 set match.

The program's purpose is to highlight the skills that exist on each team beyond the first and second place teams at the end of the HS girls volleyball season. The selected players have trained with a cast of coaches for a period of five training sessions totaling 16 hours. The practices have given the players an opportunity to pursue their potential and reach a higher level of competition.

The following players below from each school will represent two All-Star teams in their game.

LEIGH GASES

Grace Christian Academy's Azzy Fatialofa, left, and Marianas High School's Tamia Kileleman-Hix are one of the few chosen to participate in the HS girls All-Star volleyball game this Friday, 6pm, at the Agape Gymnasium.

Saipan International School's representatives are Kaithlyn Chavez, Aubrey Castro, Hoo Wang, and Euky Claveria as their libero.

Saipan Southern High School's representatives include Mai Peters, Casey Cruz, Yasmeen Younis, and Miley Salas as their libero.

Agape Christian School players are Elim Huang, Sunny Wang, Jessica Chen, Barbara Wang as the setter, and Lucy Hong as the libero.

Grace Christian Academy players are Azzy Fatialofa, Bea Fabre, Alyssa Omampo, setter Eunice Pagaduan, and libero Matty Angeles.

Mount Carmel School includes Mia Abuan, Jieun Kwon, Maili Peter, and setter Chelsy Reyes.

Marianas High School players are Rizza Relucio, Julie Capayas, Tamia Kileleman-Hix, and Elaina Manglona.

Kagman High School includes Jayda Norita, Charisse Camacho, and Tsubakiko Joab.

For Tinian High School, their representatives are Abbygaile Ong, Bernadette Fleming, and Clarize Rodriguez.

And for Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos High School, the players are Brynn Atalig, Kaypeonie Mendiola, and Dencia Lizama.

Davis said, "As the girl's high school season came to an end we again wanted to recognize the exceptional athletes from both public and private schools as was done last year with the high school boys. These student athletes are full of talent, sportsmanship, and make an impact as leaders to their peers. To do this NMVA and team coaches worked together to have an All-Star game in the month of November, with participation from each team to give the players an opportunity to be recognized for their outstanding efforts."

She added, "As we support these students in their demonstration of athleticism we would like to thank Marianas High School and Agape Christian School for working with us in providing an avenue to train. We would also like to acknowledge the coaches, referees and technical officials who have given their time to support the implementation of the All-Star program."

KWON

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Yu for the championship of the boys 16.

The 6'2" Kagman High School student overcame Yu in the finals, 6-1, 6-4.

Wessel advanced to the finals with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Siwoo Lee, while second seed Yu triumphed over Seungwoo "Henry" Choi, 6-3, 6-1, to get the second finals berth.

"I've always known that my physicality was stronger than a lot of tennis players my age and I used that to my advantage to control my opponent by serves and volleys," said Wessel, who tips the scales at 165 lbs.

Wessel then dedicated his age group title to "my dad and mom for providing me with opportunities."

In the boys 14, Ryan Jeongwoo Choi got the better of Ian Chae in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2, to take home the championship.

Choi, the No. 1 seed, made quick work of Jihun Park, 6-0, 6-1, in the semis, while Chae finished off Matthew Hwang in the bottom half of the ladder to advance to the finals.

Second seed Minjoon "Michael" Jeon, meanwhile, upset top seed Jinho Park, 6-3, 6-3, to rule the boys 12.

Jeon beat Matt Zhu, 6-1, 6-0, to advance to the finals, while Park rallied to beat Daniel Kang, 3-6, 6-2, 10-5, to reach the championship round.

In the boys 10, Seungmin Jang went 2-0 in round-robin play to win the age group. He beat Jae Hun Jason Choi, 6-4, and Dongmin Jang, 6-2.

In the boys 18 doubles, Kwon and Yu swept the three-team division. They beat Seungwoo "Henry" Choi and Wessel, 7-5. 6-3, and Siwoo Lee and Tang, 6-2, 6-4.

Minjoon "Michael" Jeon and Jinho Park topped the boys 12 doubles by going 3-0 in round-robin play.

They beat Cooper and Jackson Koning-Fong, 6-3, 6-0; Daniel Kang and Matt Zhu, 6-0, 7-6(3), and Seungwoo Lee and Kijoon Park, 6-4, 6-3.

The 12th TanHoldings Classic would like to thank the following sponsors of the tournament: Grand Slam Sponsors Quality Distributor of Guam, Mobil Oil Marianas, ASC Trust, and TSL Foundation; Match Point Sponsors IT&E, D&Q, and Shirley's Guam, Ace Sponsors Alliance Metal Specialties and IShop; Advantage Sponsors Take Care and Tsang Brothers, and in-kind sponsors McDonalds Saipan and Guam, All-Star dba Boarderline Athlete's Foot, and Marpac.

BANG

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and did LSD (long slow distance) training every Saturday.

After finishing the full marathon, Bang treated herself to a sauna to relax her tired body before quickly heading to the airport.

She thanked her husband, Wonsuk Bang, and daughters, Lauren and Claire, who always support her running hobby.

"With their support, I got my achievement. Also, I'm thankful to my friends, who always encourage me."

Last July, Bang completed her first marathon, the Park Love Marathon also in Seoul, which essentially was her preparation for the bigger JTBC Seoul Marathon.

"I completed 42K in July in Korea, but it was pre-training for the JTBC marathon. The race in July was not a major marathon, and it was just a regular and small event for marathon maniacs. But that was really helpful for me to prepare for this major marathon."

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. congratulated Bang for another feather in her impressive running cap.

"We are all very proud of Ann. She definitely hit her goal of around the 4-hour mark and I'm very sure she will hit under 4 hours in the next year. Amazing job to her and congratulations. I would say she earned a well-deserved rest. However, the Run Saipan Half Marathon is around the corner," he said.

ELEVEN

From page 20

Kanoa could even think about scoring their second goal.

Toward the end of the match, Kanoa's Daniell Pablo found an opening and scored the second goal, but it was too late for a comeback as time expired.

Over in MSL 2, all goals were scored not even four minutes into the game. It became a push for Hana to keep the lead as they were up, 3-1 throughout the match.

Hana's Boaz Lim, Don Cabrera, and Kang San Kim scored the three goals, while Shirley's Jedediah Peteru scored their lone goal.

In other MSL 1 results, Kanoa FC outgoaled NMI U15 NT, 5-1; Latte FC won over MP United FC, 3-1; and Paire FC beat NMI U15 NT, 4-2.

In MSL 2, Shirley's FC 1 slipped past Matansa FC, 2-1; WNT Development Team defeated Bangladesh FC, 5-3; and Old B Bank powered past MP United FC, 3-1.

Results of the other leagues will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune.*

Embiid has 48 points as 76ers beat Wizards for 5th straight win.

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TakeCare Interscholastic badminton season kicks off.

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Kwon, Wessel top boys divisions

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Top seeds David Kwon and Nason Wessel proved their mettle by topping the boys 18 and boys 16 championship of the 12th TanHoldings Tennis Classic over the weekend at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Kwon swept all three of his matches in round-robin play to win his division.

The 16-year-old Mt. Carmel School student first defeated second seed and CNMI National Tennis Team member to the Pacific Games, June Yu, in three tough sets, 6-4, 4-6, 10-8.

He followed that up with an even harder come-from-behind 1-6, 6-4, 10-2 against Si Woo Lee. Kwon then clinched the boys 18 championship with a relatively easy 6-1, 6-2 victory over Simon Tang, who is an alternate to the team bound for Honiara, Solomon Islands.

"I didn't really practice tennis, but the players were actually good, so I was scared in the game, but I tried my best to win," said Kwon when asked about his performance in the tournament.

He then thanked his family that always supports his tennis hobby.

Wessel, meanwhile, beat his Pacific Games teammate

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MARK RABAGO

Nason Wessel serves to June Yu in the boys 16 finals of the 12th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

MARK RABAGO

David Kwon tracks a return to June Yu in their boys 18 match in the 12th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Eleven Tiger, Hana tear through foes in MSL

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Eleven Tiger of Marianas Soccer League 1 and Hana Football Club of MSL 2 tore through their foes in Week 6 of the Marianas Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Eleven Tiger routed Kanoa FC, 4-2, last Thursday, while Hana edged Shirley's FC 2, 3-1 last Sunday.

Kanoa got the better of Eleven Tiger first as Adrian Lubao scored the first goal for their team and the game at the 30th minute mark. However, Eleven Tiger's R.J. Narvaez evened it up two minutes later for a 1-1 game.

Kanoa went on to become scoreless, while Eleven Tiger's Tanapon Unsa found the net in the 57th minute and in the 63rd minute to put them up, 3-1. Teammate Akira Kadokura then made it 4-1 before

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NMIFA

Eleven Tiger's Tanapon Unsa, left, goes up against Kanoa's Daniell Pablo during one of their games in the Marianas Soccer League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Bang completes second marathon

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Ann Bang completed her second marathon last Sunday after conquering the 2023 JTBC Seoul Marathon in her native South Korea.

The 49-year-old finished the 26.2-mile footrace in 4:23:26 to rank 7,694th out of over 35,000 participants and 958th among all women participants.

Even more impressive though was the dirt from her running shoes was still fresh when Bang caught a late-night flight back to Saipan to assume her full-time job as a mother and wife.

"Because I stayed in Korea for three days, I needed to go back to pick up and drop off my daughters to school. I'm a runner, but I'm still a mother first. I was off-island for the holiday and I needed to be back to do my job as a mother and wife," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Bang proudly shows off her finishers medal after completing the 2023 JTBC Seoul Marathon last Sunday in the capital of South Korea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ann Bang gives a big thumbs up after completing the 2023 JTBC Seoul Marathon in 4:23:26.

As for the JTBC Seoul Marathon, which is one of two major marathons in the country with the other being the Seoul International Marathon, the Run Saipan mainstay said it was always in her bucket list.

"I really wanted to join this race, so I tried to enjoy it on the run. Actually, it's a rare opportunity that I can run through the heart of Seoul. While I was running, I could feel autumn in the city."

Bang said the hardest part of the JTBC Seoul Marathon was running through a crowd and it took a lot of work to keep her ideal pace.

"Ironically, it was fun to run with many people. All runners breathe together and share pain during the race on the road. I've never ran with tens of thousands of runners before, so it was a memorable experience. Also, it was raining during the race, so I had to run with my rain-soaked shoes, but it was fun for me. While I was running, I listened to *November Rain* by Guns 'N Roses and I think I really enjoyed this race. I then sprinted the last 400 meters and crossed the finish line. Then I thought I still had the energy to run and I was sad because the marathon was done," said Bang, who trained by running uphill more than 300 kilometers a month

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